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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Al-'Allaf on Day's Talks With Israelis

JN1212215691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2125 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the second phase of the Middle East peace talks, has declared that today's meeting was like the meetings held yesterday and the day before yesterday, in that it failed to make any progress.

In a statement to reporters at the conclusion of the meeting, he added: We are still patient. That is why we agreed to resume the talks on Monday [16 December].

Al-'Allaf went on to say: The Syrian Arab delegation refuted in today's meeting the Israeli interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242, and explained its own and Syria's interpretation of this resolution, an interpretation which is shared by the world community and international legitimacy as well.

Al-'Allaf indicated that Resolution 242 stipulates that the two sides should earnestly undertake to implement the principle of trading land for peace; namely, effecting an Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and establishing a just peace with all that this entails.

The head of the Syrian Arab delegation noted that the Israeli side today once again expressed its rejection of all these internationally acknowledged interpretations of Resolution 242, and stuck to its own devious interpretation. If this interpretation were to be taken seriously, it would mean that the Israelis do not intend to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and that all that concerns them is to impose on the Arab side a peace that would not realize legitimate Arab rights.

In reply to a question on whether the talks are facing an abstruse knot, al-'Allaf said: If things were to continue in this manner, they would face an abstruse knot. As you see, we are demonstrating patience. I was frequently asked whether or not I am being patient. Indeed, we are displaying patience. The fact that we agreed to resume the talks on Monday shows that we are being patient. Patience, however, is not without limits. Moreover, I believe that there have to be guarantees of progress so that the hopes of the world community, which wants our talks to realize a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, will not be frustrated.

Says Syrians Being Patient

JN1212181191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The second round of Arab-Israeli talks resumed at the U.S. State Department in Washington this morning. As he was entering the conference room today, Syria's chief negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf told journalists: We hope we will be able to achieve what we have failed to do over the past two days of talks; namely to make some headway. He added: We look forward to the talks resuming in earnest, and we hope the other side will today demonstrate a willingness to abide by the principles underlying the peace process. Mr. al-'Allaf emphasized that the experience of the past two days of talks has been less than encouraging. Asked about the Syrian Arab delegation's adopting a patient posture, al-'Allaf said: Our presence here in itself shows that we are being patient.

Lebanese Radio Cites Beirut, Israeli Negotiators

NC1212212691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Nuhad al-Hayik report from Washington—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Today's bilateral meetings between the Arab and Israeli delegations at the U.S. State Department ended at 1330 Washington time, one and three-quarters of an hour ago. Because of difficulties in the phone connection, however, we were late in bringing you the results.

The Lebanese and Israeli delegations ended their meeting at 1330 today. Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, announced that the discussions are continuing in a practical and serious way over basic issues. He said there was one point in the Lebanese stand that he wished to clarify. He said that this stand focuses on the goals of attaining a just and stable peace and paving the way for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 by means of a mechanism included in Resolution 426.

Shammas added: We talked with each other and listened to each other's diverging views. We will continue the talks in this same spirit, which allows each party to listen to the other's views regardless of its proposals or ideas.

Shammas announced that the meetings will resume at 1000 on 16 December. He added: We will persevere, be patient, and remain here until we achieve positive results.

As he was leaving the State Department Building, the head of the Israeli delegation said: We have ended discussing basic issues with the Lebanese delegation. We proposed some principles connected with a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon. The meeting was serious and was conducted in a comfortable atmosphere.

When we asked the head of the Israeli delegation if they had discussed security arrangements, he replied: We certainly are speaking of security arrangements in the framework of peace and a peace treaty between the two countries.

He added: We know that the two delegations have some differences, but we are discussing them in a constructive way.

Asked if the discussion of security arrangements is a condition for implementing Resolution 425, he said that in the Israeli view, this resolution can be discussed in the framework of a peace treaty.

Asked if the Israelis were linking the implementation of this resolution with settling other regional disputes, the head of the Israeli delegation answered: We regard Resolution 425 as part of the process. We are here to discuss peace. This was the aim of issuing the invitation to the Madrid conference and the bilateral talks that we are conducting here. [passage omitted]

Palestinians, Israel Resume Corridor Talks

JN1212165691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations resumed their negotiations this afternoon in a corridor of the U.S. State Department in Washington.

Radio Israel this afternoon said that the head of the Israeli delegation had presented a new proposal during the previous meeting on solving the dispute regarding the independence of the Palestinian delegation. The proposal calls for immediate and simultaneous talks between the Israeli delegation and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and with the Palestinian delegation members separately.

The negotiations between both the Syrian and Lebanese delegations and two Israeli delegations were resumed at the U.S. Department of State this afternoon.

Al-Majali, 'Abd-al-Shafi Note 'Progress'

JN1212204691 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Arab-Israeli peace talks continued at the U.S. State Department in Washington. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation resumed meetings in the State Department corridors with the Israeli negotiating team without agreement on terms of meeting.

The Israeli delegation continued to oppose holding separate talks with each of the two sides of the joint delegation. After four hours of talks today, progress was reported and a possible agreement was in sight.

The heads of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides of the delegation spoke to reporters after the meeting to report progress.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali, head of Jordanian side] I can tell you that we have spent the last four hours discussing various suggestions from both sides, and I think we made some progress, and the gap is smaller. We are hoping to meet this afternoon at 1600 to have a final status.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Al-Majali] Well, almost the same subject. Two tracks, composition of the track, and how to meet in plenary, how to make subcommittees. So, all procedures.]

['Abd-al-Shafi, head of Palestinian side] Good morning. All I want to tell, I think, it is my feeling that we are approaching an agreement, and that probably we will proceed into substance shortly, very soon. The afternoon meeting in my opinion is going to be crucial. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Details of Counterproposal to Israeli Offer

JN1312110391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Dec 91 pp 1, 13

[Excerpts] Washington, SAWT AL-SHA'B, Agencies—Yesterday, for the third consecutive day, the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations could not reach agreement regarding the obstacle placed by Israel's insistence that negotiations be held with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, contrary to the cosponsors' letters of invitation. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, stated to SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Jordanian side is still awaiting the Israeli response to the proposal it recently offered so that negotiations with the Israelis could be started.

He explained that the Jordanian proposal falls within the framework of the principles contained in the cosponsors' invitations to the talks, principles providing that the talks be held along two tracks: a Jordanian-Israeli track to discuss issues pertaining to the Jordanian side, and a Palestinian-Israeli track, albeit under the umbrella of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to discuss all issues pertaining to the Palestine question.

Dr. al-Majali stressed that the Jordanian delegation will not accept any formula for resolving problems facing the start of negotiations outside the framework of the formula stipulated by the invitation.

He said the delegation might ask the United States to intervene and put pressure on Israel so as to overcome this problem if all efforts to resolve this problem fail or hit a deadlock.

Jordanian sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that they believe that the use of the term joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the Jordanian proposal could be received positively by the Israeli delegation. [passage omitted]

In another development, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Israelis rejected a Palestinian proposal, and offered a counterproposal. She said the Palestinian proposal calls for maintaining the credibility of a separate Palestinian participation in accordance with the letter of invitation to the concerned parties calling for negotiations along two tracks, a Jordanian-Israeli track and Palestinian-Israeli track. In a news conference yesterday afternoon, 'Ashrawi declined to reveal the contents of the proposal.

However, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, revealed to SAWT AL-SHA'B the details of the Palestinian proposal, which contains three key points. The first point is to change the term joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to become a Jordanian-Israeli track to discuss Jordanian-Israeli issues, and a Palestinian-Israeli track to discuss issues pertaining to the Palestinian side. Each delegation would contain 14 members, with an unspecified number of Jordanian representatives joining the Palestinian side and a similar number of Palestinian representatives joining the Jordanian side.

The second point in the proposal calls for setting up specialized committees and subcommittees. Each side would be able to set up its own committees as it deems appropriate.

The third point indicates that this proposal should be unanimously approved and signed by the three chief delegates. This point also indicates that procedural matters must be discussed by the heads of the two tracks.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad explained that the Israeli counterproposal called for the separation of the 14-member joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation into two seven-member Palestinian-Jordanian teams as soon as the meeting begins, provided that subcommittees and all matters refer to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Rejects 'Subcommittee' Status

JN1212170591 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] In statements to reporters, sister Hanan 'Ashrawi has stated that the Palestinians will never view themselves as a subcommittee, and we will not be treated as such. We, she added, are a people with a national identity and rights. We will negotiate with the Israelis on the same footing, she noted.

Hanan 'Ashrawi pointed out that the Palestinian position, with regard to conducting negotiations on a separate track, is grounded in the draft of the invitation extended by the United States and the Soviet Union on 18 October.

Al-Majali Expects Chief Delegates Talks 15 Dec

JN1312055391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The sixth meeting between the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli chief delegates, held in the corridors leading to the halls prepared for bilateral talks at the U.S. State Department building in Washington, concluded this morning.

A radio correspondent in Washington reports that the three chief delegates declared that progress has been achieved in the talks. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that a meeting among the chief delegates might be held Sunday morning. He hoped that the talks would resume between the three delegations on Monday to discuss substantive issues concerning peace in the Middle East.

Al-Majali on Jordanian Interests in West Bank

TA1212203791 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 11 Dec 91 pp 1, 11

[Exclusive correspondent's report]

[Excerpts] Washington—Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the senior Jordanian negotiator at the bilateral talks in Washington, has cautioned about statements every now and then to the effect that Jordan wants to regain its sovereignty over the West Bank. He said that any statement made in this regard is unfounded, but if Israel insists on sitting with one joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, this would mean that it is they, not us, who are trying to reconsider Jordanian sovereignty over the West Bank. He stressed that we cannot negotiate in place of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The senior Jordanian negotiator revealed the existence of differences of opinion in Amman and Damascus over the phase of regional negotiations that will be held in Moscow at the end of next month. He said that Jordan will take part in that phase, even if all the requirements of the bilateral negotiations phase are not met. He said: We do not have preconditions. When a person comes to peace talks, there is no black or white. We came here in the spirit of peace, to overcome obstacles, not create them. We are moving toward that objective. It will be beneficial to go to Moscow, because other countries will take part in the third phase. It is important for those countries to become acquainted with our position and rights. They will definitely support us if they come to know our position and Israel's intransigence. [passage omitted]

Commenting on reports from Israel that it refuses to meet separately with the Palestinians, Dr. al-Majali said that although this is a procedural point, it was resolved in the Madrid conference when he issued his statement that was supported by the head of the Israeli delegation. Israel expressed its reservation over only one point in that statement, asking that during the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations the discussions should be confined to the transitional period only, while no reservations were expressed over the Jordanian-Israeli track. He said that if there are two tracks of negotiations, that necessarily means there should be two separate delegations and rooms, because there are different issues and agendas.

Regarding the Jordanian position if Israel insists on holding the meetings in one room, al-Majali said: I believe that we will not meet unless they offer us sufficient justification, because the rules of the game will change. If they continue to perceive us as one delegation, the situation will be different. The talks will not be on interim rule but on total withdrawal. The Jordanian position clearly insists that it will not hold talks or discussions in place of the Palestinians.

Israeli Delegates To Stay 'With No Time Limit'

TA1212143791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The Israeli delegations to the Washington talks will stay in the U.S. capital and continue the discussions with no time limit. This was reported from Washington by our political correspondent, Arye Golan. The decision was made after the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers received reports from the delegation heads.

'We Are Remaining Here Until Midweek'

TA1212164191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Ya'ir Stern in Washington "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Stern] Good evening—although it is now morning in Washington—Mr. Netanyahu. Let me ask you for an updated picture of the talks between Israel and the Palestinians and Jordanians.

[Netanyahu] We are now conducting talks designed to get us into the debate room. I do not know whether the Palestinians have yet put a toe or a whole foot in the doorway, but if they understand they must follow the rules of the game, they will eventually enter the room. They do understand one thing: The Americans have accepted our stand and are not about to coerce Israel into accepting the new game rules that the Palestinians are trying to force on us. I think the combination of those facts will produce positive results in the end.

[Stern] I understand that a meeting with the Syrians is under way. What is there to discuss?

[Netanyahu] With the Syrians, we are trying to arrive at an understanding on the framework for an agreement. The Syrians are saying: Give us the Golan Heights as a matter of fact. We are saying: No, that is a topic for negotiations. In yesterday's meeting with them, we quoted their own pronouncements about Resolution 242. They had opposed it because it implies that territories have to be negotiated, and not just handed over automatically—that the Arabs must negotiate with us and that they, too, must make concessions. To sum up, we are still busy discussing a substantive framework. At this stage, the Syrians must understand that they cannot just take or receive, that they must commit themselves to a framework of peace. I believe that is an important phase, which will be neither easy nor quick, but which has at least begun.

[Stern] If it has begun, what is the latest information about the duration of talks? How long will the Israelis remain in Washington?

[Netanyahu] Our delegations have discussed that. There were several positions, and alternative approaches were suggested. We decided to recommend to have the delegations remain until the middle of next week to try to exhaust the process, including the one with the Palestinians—to try to reach a point at which we can return home, report to the cabinet, and receive instructions as to the next stage.

[Stern] What was the feedback from Jerusalem on this recommendation?

[Netanyahu] We made this recommendation to the prime minister, and he endorsed it. We are remaining here until midweek.

[Stern] Thank you very much.

Israel Reports Developments During Talks

With Syrian, Lebanese Delegations

TA1212200091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Report from Washington by political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Excerpt] The Syrian-Israeli meeting has ended, and talks will resume on Monday. We have received a few details about that meeting. We have learned that the Israelis raised the problem of the Syrian Jews, to which the Syrians replied from documents. They read out data on the numbers of Jewish engineers and physicians in Syria and noted that the grandest Damascus stores are owned by Jews. After that, the head of the Syrian delegation said: That has nothing to do with you; that is a domestic matter. He even mentioned that Syrian Jews allegedly danced in the streets in joy over the election of President al-Asad.

Israel again tried to raise the issue of the venue of future talks, but the Syrians again adamantly refused to discuss it. Most of the talk dealt with Resolution 242. The Syrian legal adviser communicated Syria's approach, according to which this resolution automatically means that Israel should withdraw before anything else. The Syrians and the Israelis exchanged views on this issue, but the meeting ended with complete disagreement. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday.

The meeting with the Lebanese delegation was held in a spirit of understanding, or at least in a good atmosphere. After it ended a short while ago, we heard from one of the heads of the team, Uri Lubrani:

[Begin Lubrani recording] Right now, the talks are dealing with reducing the distance between divergent approaches. The Lebanese delegation wants a particular approach, while we believe that their approach is mistaken and recommend a different one. Today we read out to the Lebanese delegation the main points of the peace treaty that we are proposing. At a later stage in the talks, we will brief them on that proposal in more depth. We enumerated all the points that matter to us. We also stressed that we are ready at any time to discuss any point they desire. We do not regard Resolution 425 as being outside the broader agreement that we need to discuss. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf's Statement

TA1312075291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, informed the Israeli delegation that it had better realize that no accord will be reached short of a comprehensive arrangement for the Middle East. Al-'Allaf said that although the Syrians are speaking separately to the Israelis, they intend to reach a comprehensive arrangement. Al-'Allaf also discussed the difficulties encountered in the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and protested against Israel's positions. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the Syrians did not make any linkage whatsoever between progress in the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the other issues. [passage omitted]

Syrians Seen More Moderate

TA1312060291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The contacts between the Israeli delegation and the Palestinians will resume Saturday evening. The Israeli delegation expects to receive a positive reply to the proposal it submitted to the Palestinians on the issue of the separate talks. Sources in the Israeli delegation told our correspondent Arye Golan that during yesterday's meetings, the Palestinians submitted a proposal that expressed readiness to accept some sort of connection between the joint delegation and the separate talks; however, this proposal still does not satisfy the Israeli delegation.

Israeli sources on one hand, and Hanan 'Ashrawi on the other, both pointed out that some progress had been made. The next official meeting between the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is scheduled for Monday.

The official meetings with the Syrian and Lebanese delegations will also be resumed on Monday. Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Syrians, said that he has begun to discern a more moderate tone in the Syrians' expression of their position. Nevertheless, he added, it is difficult to say that the dialogue has created a basis for positive progress.

Spokesman Netanyahu Briefs Media on Talks

TA1212213891

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 2005 GMT on 12 December begins a live broadcast of Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's news conference with reporters in Washington.

Deputy Minister Netanyahu's remarks and the unidentified correspondents' questions are in English. IDF radio's special correspondent in Washington Ya'aqov Eylon provides sporadic translation into the Hebrew, superimposed over Netanyahu's voice. All Netanyahu quotations below are from English.

Netanyahu begins by stating that today "the delegations engaged in substantive talks. We are probing deeper—I would say deeper and deeper—into our definitions of peace. And, I would use the cliche of being cautiously optimistic, because there is some development."

Referring to the meetings with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, he says that although they "continued in the form of couch talks...I think that the gap is apparently narrowing. It is too early to say whether it will be narrowed sufficiently." He adds that an attempt to narrow the gap and arrive at a mutually acceptable formula will be made in the next meeting today. "We would like very much to proceed within the context of the ground rules" that had been set at the outset. In view of that, he notes, "Israel has decided to extend its stay in Washington till the middle of next week. We intended originally to leave actually today, but we decided to extend it in order to get—as we wish—to substantive negotiations with three Arab delegations in Washington."

At this point, Netanyahu is asked about the two-track approach to negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He replies that Israel is "amenable to two-track negotiations; that was our proposal from the start. But that is not the issue. The issue was whether we maintain a joint Jordanian-Palestinian framework under which we discuss the various issues. By the way, it could be many issues." He goes on to say: "I think we are trying to bridge that gap—to maintain a joint framework, and at the same time to develop its separate elements. And, we are doing just that." Netanyahu refuses to go into detail on that issue, "because we are meeting this afternoon, and because I think it's advisable to get a result."

Another reporter asks for Netanyahu's reaction to al-Asad's statement that Syria's Jews enjoy freedom of movement. Netanyahu responds: "I suppose that my comment would be that there is about as much freedom for Jews there as there is freedom for non-Jews." He adds: "That is unacceptable. We think that Syria ought to change its policy. We use the opportunity of the peace talk to raise our concern, raise it very clearly, very firmly. I must tell you that we didn't hear a positive response on that one."

Asked about the apparent coincidence of peace and settlement moves, Netanyahu replies: "The developments in Silwan are under litigation...and they will be taken up, I understand, in court tomorrow—if not tomorrow, then certainly within the next few days. So this is something that is subject of course to litigation. One thing I will say about Israel is that it has a judicial system that is widely respected around the world, is impartial, and it addresses Arab claims, including Palestinian Arab claims from the territories, with equal impartiality to Jewish ones. Often it rules in the favor of the Arabs, when the law judges—or when the law stipulates—that they are right. So this claim is under litigation. I wish we had a similar judicial system to address the claims of minorities, or citizens in general, in the Arab world."

Replying to a question about progress in negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, Netanyahu says: "The talks with the Syrians are concerned with the question that I discussed yesterday. Syria, as you know, was rejecting any idea that the territorial issue is negotiable. They were saying that the return of the territory is automatic." He adds: "We cited yesterday—to give you one example—a comment by an official Syrian Government spokesman on the 22d of November—this is from the Ba'th publication of the 24th of November (?1987)—and this is essentially an attack on [Resolution] 242, because it says—I am quoting: It makes Arab territory the object of bargaining and imposes the fait accompli of Zionist occupation." Netanyahu adds that now "there is a greater willingness to look at 242 if not in a completely new light, at least in a conditional light—that's how I would put it: a conditional fashion—to think of its separate components perhaps as being tied in a conditionality that we don't accept." He says that this way of arguing is not yet "where we ought to be, but at least it is different from the place where we were yesterday." Netanyahu notes: "I don't think we should measure progress here in days."

On U.S. Effort Not To Intervene

TA1212184991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Washington—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Are the Americans involved in the process, or in bringing the parties closer?

[Netanyahu] Look, they are showing great interest, I think, but they are not involved. I would say that they are making a special effort—that is how I would term it—not to intervene. That certainly assists us in this case.

[Ganor] Does the Israeli decision to stay in Washington mean that we have given up on moving the talks to the region?

[Netanyahu] What is the connection? We said that we are coming for several meetings in Washington. Indeed, we originally intended to leave today, but we decided to go on until the middle of next week to try to complete the current round of talks. Naturally, in the future we will have to move the talks to a closer location, where the links with the decisionmakers will be far more efficient. Furthermore, it seems to me that U.S. policy—the current aim of which is to avoid intervention in order to make it clear to the Arabs that they must negotiate with us—can be better promoted the further from Washington we are and the smaller the Arab expectations are for U.S. intervention. The smaller those expectations are, the more chances direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs have.

Palestinians Said Split by 'Stormy Dispute'

TA1212193191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari from Washington—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The talks with the Lebanese delegation are still going on; I have received a preliminary report on what is happening there. I assume that, as was the case with the Syrians, the Israelis and the Lebanese will agree to resume talks on Monday.

The Lebanese are firmly insisting on Resolution 425, which says that Israel should withdraw from south Lebanon. Today Hadas and Lubrani, heads of the Israeli delegation, produced another, more recent document—Security Council Resolution 520 of 17 September 1982, which speaks of the withdrawal of all foreign troops—including Syrian—from Lebanon. What Israel actually told the Lebanese today was that if there is to be a withdrawal, then everybody is leaving.

The two fundamental approaches in these talks are as follows: The Lebanese want to start in the south, telling Israel to get out of the south, while Israel is telling them that, although the south is on the agenda, the north is the place to start—meaning that Syria should get out of the north. [passage omitted]

Now, regarding the talks with the Jordanians and Palestinians, the impression conveyed by members of the Israeli delegation is that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi does not have a mandate to clinch a deal. The distance between the two delegations—between Rubinstein on one hand, and al-Majali and primarily 'Abd-al-Shafi on the other hand—is not great, but, although I have received only partial reports, the impression at the moment is that he lacks the mandate to conclude the matter.

The question preoccupying the Palestinian delegation is how they will be able to return home and what people back home will say if the delegation agrees to remain unified with the Jordanians after promising their audiences that they would achieve a separation in the course of negotiations. The Palestinians are faced with a very tough situation, both because they have lost American support—due to Israeli pressure, among other reasons—as a result of which their negotiating status has suffered a setback, and because of problems within their delegation. The delegation is split by an extremely stormy dispute. For instance, usually moderate Professor Walid al-Khalidi, who is officially on the Jordanian delegation, is pushing for a firm stand. Various people in the delegation have rejected proposals that once were acceptable to 'Abd-al-Shafi, and that particular matter is still stuck. The optimistic outlook, expressed mainly by the Israeli delegation this morning—that by 1000 or 1030 Washington time the matter would be concluded—has been shattered. The way things stand now, all that remains is to wait and see.

Said Preparing for Compromise

TA1212220691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2025 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari from Washington—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the lunch break between today's meetings, I talked with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. He told me that the Palestinians are willing to be very flexible on everything to do with procedure, but they do have a red line. Their red line is their demand to have a completely separate agenda for the Palestinian part of the talks. They are rejecting a joint agenda with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which is supposed to be followed by a split into work teams. What they want is a totally separate agenda for the Palestinian delegation. He is ready to have more meetings between the joint delegation's plenum and the Israeli delegation—but on joint issues only, or in Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi's words, on procedures, venues, seating order, and so forth.

The Palestinians are now trying to build their rationalization in the event they decide to agree to a compromise. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Negotiations With Israel

JN1212193791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem; date not given; from "With the Events program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar: What point have the talks and discussions between the Palestinian and Israeli sides reached with regard to the resumption of bilateral negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Israeli delegation has refused thus far to meet us as a separate Palestinian delegation operating within the framework of the joint delegation. This is the point at which we have stopped so far.

[Mu'addi] What is the proposal you submitted to the Israeli side to resolve the current differences?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have not denied that we are part of the joint delegation. However, as the invitations extended by the U.S. side stipulate, and as the Palestinian delegation was treated as a separate delegation operating within the framework of the joint delegation in Madrid, we proposed and demanded that—even though the negotiations will be conducted along two tracks, a Palestinian- Israeli track, and an Israeli-Arab track—Palestinian issues and problems should be discussed by the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. This offer is being rejected by the Israeli delegation, which insists on holding talks with a joint delegation which could split into various committees. This would, of course, be tantamount to a denial of the Palestinian identity, something which we reject.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar: But this is what was agreed upon in the past. Will the Palestinian side then reject the proposal to continue the negotiations as part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have not rejected negotiations. We are here for the negotiations. We do not deny that we are a Palestinian delegation operating within the framework of the joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation. We recognize and acknowledge all of this. However, there are two tracks for the negotiations, as stipulated in the invitations and the U.S. letters of assurances; namely, an Israeli-Palestinian track, and an Israeli-Arab track. Our position is that a Palestinian delegation comprising one Jordanian should be involved in negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The presence of the Jordanian member would be meant to maintain adherence to the joint delegation formula. The Israeli delegation continues to refuse such an arrangement.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar: Do you believe it is possible to find a way out of the bottleneck currently plaguing the talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is up to the Israeli delegation and the cosponsors of the conference: that is, the United States and the Soviet Union.

[Mu'addi] Do you believe that the current round of talks will produce nothing, and that the delegations will return from where they came, and keep waiting for the start of the next round of talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not want to forestall events. We are here to make serious and earnest efforts to start negotiations and tackle key issues with a view to reaching a peaceful and just solution. I am expressing these views in all seriousness. We do not seek to thwart this conference. If some other parties seek to thwart this conference, however, then this would be something over which we have no control.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar: Have you requested the intervention of the cosponsors to resolve the problem?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have thus far not asked the cosponsors of the talks to intervene. The cosponsors are monitoring the situation closely. So far, we have not asked for such a thing.

[Mu'addi] What is the Palestinian side's agenda for the upcoming phase?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As a matter of fact, this is an issue which I do not want to discuss in public. But we have an agenda which we will voice once we overcome the current problem. Once this is achieved, we will present our agenda at the negotiating table.

[Mu'addi] If the problem is not resolved, will the negotiations continue to be conducted in the corridors of the U.S. State Department?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not want to forestall things. Let us see how we can handle this situation.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi: Are you optimistic over the chances of success in the talks currently going on in State Department corridors? Moreover, do you believe it is possible to reach a solution to the problem which is preventing the resumption of bilateral negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not want to be pessimistic at all. I, along with my brother delegation members as well as members of the Jordanian delegation, are continuing our serious efforts to preclude a failure of the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi: Thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thanks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Seeks Arab League Meeting on Peace Talks

NC1212181991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has asked the Arab League to hold an emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting in order to assess the results of the peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab delegations and the developments in the Arab world.

Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, who met today with Arab League Secretary General Dr.'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, said he conveyed an oral message from 'Arafat to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that includes this request.

Sha'th said he believes that the Washington talks between Israel and the Arabs will not produce any positive results because of Israel's ambitions and intransigence. He noted, however, that it is possible to hold another round of talks in Moscow.

Sha'th urged the Arab countries to make more intensive efforts on the world scene in order to compel Israel to halt its settlement program, which has almost swallowed up the occupied Arab territories.

Sha'th called on the countries of the world to postpone the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism until next year in order not to impede the current peace talks and until Israel proves that it is serious about peace.

The Palestinian official explained that Israel is stepping up its repression and terrorism inside the occupied West Bank and Gaza and is trying through all methods to provoke the Arabs into adopting stands that will serve as a pretext to foil the peace negotiations.

League Denies Report on Separatist Somali State

NC1212182391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—An official source at the Arab League General Secretariat announced today that the League supports Somalia's territorial integrity and that its efforts are focused on uniting the warring factions in that country in order to preserve the unity of its people and territory.

The source denied a report that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will meet with a Somali official who will submit to him a proclamation of a state in northern Somalia and request the admission of this state to the Arab League. He said this report is "groundless."

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Organization Issues Communique

LD1212234191 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 12, SPA—Sixth Islamic summit conference, which concluded its deliberations here last night, underscored the importance of enhancing relations among the Muslim countries.

The joint communique released by the participants of the conference called for the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and non-interference in the domestic affairs of the others.

The communique urged the Muslim countries to extend support to the nations that struggle to liberate themselves from foreign occupation and hegemony.

Underlining the importance of boosting commercial exchange among the Muslim countries, the communique urged the Muslim countries to take the appropriate measures for reducing tarrifs and all other barriers and to expand intra-Islamic economic and commercial cooperation.

The communique deplored the phenomenon of terrorism and reiterated the readiness of the Muslim countries to cooperate with the international efforts that aim at combatting terrorism.

International conventions should be respected and all disputes should be settled through dialogue, said the communique.

On the situation in the Middle East the communique highlighted the on-going efforts to bring about peace in the region on the bases of the resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the UN's Security Council as well as in the light of the principle of 'land in return of peace' and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The two resolutions issued by the Security Council clearly stipulate the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and Golan Heights, said the communique.

The communique saluted the Palestinian intifada (uprising) and deplored the Israeli expansionist policy.

Dakar declaration saluted the heroic struggle of the Afghans for the liberation of their country.

The declaration called for political settlement of the Afghan problem and formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

On the problem of Kashmir, the declaration expressed anxiety over violation of human rights in Kashmir and called for the settlement of the problem of Kashmir in line with the resolutions issued by the United Nations on this respect.

On the problem of Cyprus the communique called the concerned parties to negotiate for reaching an acceptable settlement. At the same time the communique expressed sympathy with the Turkish Cypriots.

The communique also called the Somalian parties to settle their conflict through dialogue and welcomed the readiness shown by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the delegations of the Somalian parties.

The communique noted with satisfaction the measures taken by the Government of Philippines to improve the conditions of the Muslims and expressed hope the government would take more measures to solve the problems of the Filipino Muslims within the framework of Tripoli agreement.

The communique urged the Muslim countries to show concern for the problems faced by the Muslim minorities living in non-Islamic countries.

On the other hand the communique welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the seventh Islamic summit conference as well as the offer of Iran to host the eighth Islamic summit conference.

Review of ICO Dakar Summit Resolutions

Support for Libya Expressed

LD1212183891 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The sixth Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit, which concluded its work in the early hours of this morning today, affirmed its complete solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah and called for the avoidance of any economic or military measures against Libya. It also registered its great satisfaction at the Jamahiriyah's announcement condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its condemnation of all who use it or encourage it and its readiness to cooperate with any international or regional body, judiciary and humanitarian, to work toward eradicating it.

The conference also affirmed its appreciation of the legal procedures which the Jamahiriyah had taken, and expressed its satisfaction at the Jamahiriyah's initiative in this respect.

The following is the text of the resolution:

The sixth Islamic Conference, which convened in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, from the third to the sixth of Jamad al-Akhirah of the year, 1401 from the date of the death of the Prophet, corresponding to 9-12 December 1991, has studied the item on the crisis relating to an ICO member, guided by the principles of the organization's charter which call for strengthening solidarity among the member-states.

It expresses its commitment to the UN Charter purposes and principles which provide for the commitment of all states to refrain from the threat of force or the use of force in their international relations and to settle their differences by peaceful means, and for respect for the independence of all member states, and for refraining from endangering their sovereignty and territorial integrity and the safety of their peoples.

It affirms its clear and express condemnation, made on previous occasions, of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its condemnation of any party, individuals, groups, or states which use terrorism or encourage it.

The organization's member-states believe that terrorism runs counter to Islamic values, which they profess with full commitment, and that it does not accept tolerance or the turning of a blind eye and that terrorism runs counter to the aspirations of individuals and governments in international society for a life of tranquility, stability, and security.

It registers with great satisfaction the statement by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and its condemnation of anyone who uses it or encourages it, and its readiness to cooperate with any international or regional body, judiciary and humanitarian, to work to eradicate it, and registers) its appreciation of the legal procedures it has taken in this respect.

It expresses its satisfaction with the Great Jamahiriyah's announcement of its complete readiness to cooperate with the American and British judiciary, and to welcome judges and investigators from the United States and the UK to ensure the seriousness of the procedures and fairness in investigating the charges levied against some of its nationals, bringing into the open the full truth regarding these charges.

The conference, therefore, first registers with satisfaction Libya's affirmation of its condemnation and denunciation of terrorism and its complete readiness to cooperate with any body combating terrorism and working to eradicate it, and lauds the sober manner in which it faced the threats aimed at the security of its territory and the safety of its inhabitants.

Second, the conference expresses its anxiety at the escalation the crisis is witnessing, and calls for the waiving of the threat to use force in relations between states, in violation of the UN Charter and international law. The conference calls for adhering to international charters and the use of dialogue and negotiations in the settlement of conflicts between states.

Third, the conference affirms its full solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah and calls for avoiding any economic or military action against Libya.

Fourth, the conferecne calls on the secretary general of the ICO to follow-up the matter and to report back on it to the member-states.

With regard to compensation, the conference:

1. Affirms its condemnations of colonialism in all its manifestations, as being an act of aggression in violation of all international charters and the principles of international law;

2. Acknowledges that the consequences of colonialism had impeded the plans and program of social development in the developing countries, and still impedes their development and progress;

3. Affirms the right of developing countries to get fair compensation for all the damage and the material and human losses it had sustained as a result of colonialism;

4. Affirms the right of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to compensation for all the material and human losses which resulted from the period of the Italian invasion and colonization and settlement of the Libyan territories;

5. Demands that all past and present colonial powers shoulder their responsibilities and offer compensation for the economic, social, and cultural consequences of their occupation of the developing countries;

6. Affirms the right of developing countries to restore their cultural properties which were plundered during the colonial era, including antiquities, masterpieces, manuscripts, and historical documents;

7. Appeals to international society to take the measures that guarantee the nonrepetition of the phenomenon of colonialism and to eradicate its last vestiges;

8. Requests the continued consideration of the issue and asks his excellency the secretary general to prepare a report on it for the next Islamic Conference.

African Issues Endorsed

AB1212172091 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 11 Dec 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] African heads of state and government ministers attending the sixth Islamic summit in Dakar have started leaving for home early. The summit, due to end on Thursday [12 December] evening, is the first held by the Islamic Conference Organization in one of its sub-Saharan member countries. During the summit the leaders have been dealing with a range of African issues. From Dakar, David Bamford sent us this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The Islamic summit taking place in sub-Saharan Africa for the first time has brought together Muslim leaders from diverse regions of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. African government delegations have used the opportunity to seek endorsement from the counterparts throughout the Muslim world on issues affecting them.

The resolution adopted on the Tuareg uprising in Mali puts the blame on underdevelopment, which it says has created unrest and led to a harmful effect on ancient Muslim trading posts such as Timbuktu and Gao. The summit has proposed development programs as the way to end the uprising.

The leaders have also endorsed the need to keep Somalia whole. The resolution adopted declares that it is imperative to reestablish Somali unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. No recognition, therefore, will be offered to the newly declared state with its capital in Hargeysa.

On Sudan, the government in Khartoum had sought endorsement of its view that it is a subject to a foreign-based campaign of hostility designed to undermine the unity, stability, and identity of Sudan.

The Islamic summit has endorsed a resolution on South Africa, on the one hand, supporting President de Klerk's positive approach to the ending of apartheid, but also stating that pressure must continue against his government as long as social and economic inequalities remain.

On the Comoros Islands, the summit has urged France to open decisively negotiations with the Comoros Government to determine the manner in which the troubled island of Mayotte under French administration should be handed over. One carefully worded resolution has dealt with the legacy of colonialism.

A similar resolution, adopted at the recent OAU summit in Nigeria, called for compensation for African countries that were stripped of assets by colonialism and by the slave trade. This time, a similar resolution has been passed, but all references to slavery have apparently been deleted, it is presumed, because of Arab Muslim sensibilities, whose hands on the issue from a historical perspective, have not been totally clean. [end recording]

Leaders Comment on Results of Summit

Iran's Velayati Praises Results

LD1212231191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The sixth Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO] summit in Dakar ended this afternoon. Our correspondent, dispatched to Senegal, has sent in a report, to which we draw your attention.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Regarding the agreements reached in the ICO, our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, the final session lasted five hours and the political, economic, and cultural committees' approvals were finalized in that session. The Dakar Declaration was adopted. The salient points of the collection of approvals of the 5-hour session deal with the main issues of the world of Islam, political, economic and cultural. The Palestine issue was one of the most controversial issues which were debated and disputed in the committees, as well as at the final session.

Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran, just like during the committee debates, declared her views, namely serious opposition to holding any kind of talks and to compromise with the occupying regime of Palestine. This she registered as a written document to the ICO's secretariat.

In the final session, I read a text in which I declared our strong reservations, strong opposition, to what had been adopted regarding Palestine, in particular. Of course, five resolutions were adopted on the Palestine issue and its peripheral issues. We approved four of the five resolutions. One was on the liberation of Golan, one on the liberation of southern Lebanon, support for the intifada, and the liberation of holy Quds. We have approved all of those and still do. But the fifth resolution, which deals with the way to tackle the Palestine issue—if it should be the continuation of struggle and jihad or if there should be talks with the Israelis and confirmation of the Madrid conference along the struggle and jihad and support for the intifadah? We strongly opposed this section. In meetings held by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani with the heads of various delegations, this action, this method was always opposed. We also officially declared our opposition before all the participating delegations in the Islamic conference in the final session.

Finally, it was approved that Tehran should host the eighth ICO session. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Turkey's Cetin Says Results Important

TA1212234391 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has said that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit that was held in Dakar, Senegal, at a time when important developments are taking place in the world, produced important results as far as Turkey is concerned. Fusun Baytok reports from Dakar:

Replying to questions by the Turkish Radio and Televison team in Dakar, Foreign Minister Cetin said that Turkey's stand regarding the Cyprus problem was on the agenda of the summit once again. He went on to say that the attention of the delegates at the summit was drawn to the situation of the Turkish minorities in Bulgaria and Greece. He added: The fact that Azerbaijan—which, until now, was recognized only by Turkey—was accepted as a full member of the ICO is an important development. In the future, the other Muslim Soviet republics will also join this process.

Cetin stressed that Turkey is carefully refraining from actions that might contribute to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. However, he said, we will abide by the principle of having good and close relations with the neighboring republics.

The foreign minister pointed out that Turkey is always in favor of solving problems through peaceful dialogue. We also support the Middle East peace process started in Madrid, he said.

President Turgut Ozal, who represented Turkey at the ICO summit, has ended his bilateral contacts. He held his last meeting with the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Ozal and his delegation will leave Dakar late tonight on their way to Turkey. [passage omitted]

Cetin on Soviet Republics Issue

TA1312062491 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin by Metin Balci in Dakar on 12 December—recorded]

[Text] [Balci] Mr. Minister, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] communique says that the ICO supports the Middle East peace process started in Madrid, that Israel must withdraw from all the occupied territories, and that the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state under the leadership of the PLO should be recognized. For the first time in history, however, the Dakar declaration omits a call for jihad against Israel. How do you assess this situation?

[Cetin] A process of democratization and peace is developing speedily in the world. The view that all problems must be resolved democratically and through the free will of the people is spreading. Following the developments in Eastern and Central Europe, which started with the CSCE process, the view has emerged that problems should be resolved peacefully, not through force or wars. Therefore, it would be inconsistent to talk about a jihad to resolve the Middle East problem when the Middle East peace process has already started.

[Balci] The public is curious to know why Turkey has not yet recognized the republics that have declared their independence from the Soviet Union? What is the policy being pursued in connection with this matter?

[Cetin] Some of these republics have not yet completed the process of declaring their independence. Some of them are holding referendums. Some of them have not completed that. Some have asked to be recognized; some have not. In a very short time, we will assess all the developments and all the republics in the Soviet Union. We will assess these things as a whole. The recognition of these republics will also be as a whole. We will continue to have friendly and close relations with these republics, because we have more right than anyone else to have close relations with them—first of all, because we are neighbors.

[Balci] The same question is valid for Yugoslavia as well. How does Turkey view Yugoslavia?

[Cetin] We hope that there will not be any further clashes; however, Yugoslavia will never be the old Yugoslavia. I would like to stress our general policy. Our government does not want to encourage, even indirectly, any division or fight in the world.

Further Reportage on Speeches at ICO Session

Saudi Crown Prince Speaks

LD1212214191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Dakar, 10 Dec (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the national guard, who is leading the Saudi Arabian delegation to the sixth Islamic summit conference in Dakar, has reviewed the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's views toward the challenges facing and the dangers confronting our Islamic nation and the aspirations it entertains in the political, economic, intellectual and cultural fields. The crown prince made the review on behalf of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in the speech he delivered at the sixth Islamic summit conference here today. The following is the text of the speech: [passage omitted]

Mr. President, in the short period of time that lapsed since our last meeting in Kuwait, the world has witnessed a succession of events with which the observers and the analysts have been trying hard to catch up, for no sooner than they complete their interpretation of a serious event do they find themselves faced with yet another event they never expected. An old international order recently ended, and a new international order took place. Ancient, worn-out regimes collapsed, new entities arose, storms blew, and volcanoes erupted. The Islamic world could not but be affected by the events that have taken place and continue to take place. Today, we live in one world, whose parts have become close to each other, and distances between its countries have disappeared. The telecommunications and communications revolution did not leave any chance for anyone to live in isolation of the events, the positive as well as the negative ones. In view of this, our role should not be one of indifference. We must refuse to take a back seat away from the scene of events and epochs. We should take our place in the forefront of the march and lead the developments, not be led by them. We must interact with the events and not be interacted by them. Our weapon in doing so must be our unwavering faith in God and steadfast confidence in his support, deriving inspiration from God's saying: God shall support those who support Him; truly, God is strong and mighty.

In the turmoil of these recalcitrant events, I permit myself to review before you the views of your brothers in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom toward the challenges confronting our Islamic nation and the dangers facing it, as well as the aspirations it entertains in the political, economic, intellectual, and cultural fields, hoping that each one of us will benefit from the experiences of the others and find enlightenment from their wisdom so that we may come out of this blessed meeting—God willing—with a clearer view, more determined to march forward with the caravan of Islam to the havens of strength, might, and victory. The Islamic nation witnessed a certain disaster that had no parallel in modern history when a Muslim state invaded a neighboring Muslim state and occupied it in the midst of darkness, in utter disregard for all the supreme Islamic ideals and noble principles. [passage omitted]

We are called upon in this conference to register anew our clear denunciation of the agression, to express anew our clear condemnation of the aggressor, and to insist once again on the full implementation of international resolutions. The ruling regime in Iraq has proved that it was responsible for the disaster and the disasters that followed. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chairman, the victory of legitimacy in Kuwait has enabled us to direct all our potential and possibilities to our first basic cause, the cause of the fraternal Palestinian people, after the aggression, tyranny, and occupation from which it has been suffering. We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stand on the side of the Palestinian brothers always, the stand of the unbargaining and unmaneuvering principle, proceeding from the Islamic constants of brotherhood, which are upheld by grandchildren just as their grandparents did. We have always been with them, fighting alongside them when the wardrums beat and backing them when the war comes to an end. [passage omitted]

Since its occupation of the Arab territories in 1967, the Israeli occupation authorities carried out arbitrary measures with a view to changing the legal status of these territories. In Jerusalem, which is dear to us all, Israel continued its policy aimed at obliterating its religious features and its civilizational and historic heritage. This policy included Israel passing its law considering unified Jerusalem as its eternal capital. All these measures are considered null and void in accordance with all the legal principles and the legitimacy and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242, calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories which must include holy Jerusalem. The Arab and Muslim nation will not rest until holy Jerusalem recovers its religious and spiritual status in its capacity as the first of the two qiblahs and the third holy site and the site of the ascension of God's prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him. I also take this opportunity to praise the continuous efforts made by His Majesty King Hassan II in championing holy Jerusalem in his capacity as chairman of the al-Qods committee.

The collapse of the cold war and the appearance of a new era of international concord provides us with the opportunity of taking the Palestinian issue a few quick steps forward. Israel tried to exploit the conflict between the two blocs for its interests and succeeded in that up to a point which nearly transformed the Palestinian issue into one of the marginal battles of the cold war and made it devoid of all its humanitarian contents. Time is most appropriate now after the great Palestinian intifadah proved the Palestinian people's rejection of the fait accompli policy which is imposed by unjust force and after the smoke and the mirage of the cold war have vanished so that we acquaint the whole world with the justice of this issue and the Palestinians' right to exercise their legitimate national rights and to recover their usurped homeland, with Jerusalem as its capital, like all other peoples on this Earth. The appropriate rostrum to submit this issue is the peace conference held under the aegis of the two superpowers which was backed by all the world's countries, big and small. Here we are, seeing how Israel is putting one obstacle after the other in the face of the conference and how it is concocting one difficulty after another and fabricating one crisis after another. All this is only due to its awareness of the fact that its falsehood cannot face up to the Palestinian right in front of the world.

From this premise, it is our duty in this phase to support the peace efforts and to reveal to the whole world that all that Israel has been repeating about its love for peace is an erroneous impression and a fabrication and that all its allegations about Palestinian stubborness are false excuses to keep the stolen territories. Our stand on this issue is governed by clear Islamic principles. We are inclined toward peace with all those who are inclined to it, and we refuse to give up our legitimate rights.

Mr. Chairman, while we have seen the victory of right in Kuwait and we are presently living a new round of the contest in support of the right in Palestine, we are witnessing with pride and cherishing the cause of the Afghan mojahedin coming closer to a sure and backed victory. The kingdom is proud of nothing more than its pride in being the first to stand behind the Afghan Islamic jihad with money, equipment, and men. As they have succeeded in setting up a provisional government which the kingdom was the first to recognize, they will succeed—God willing—to arrive at a permanent Islamic government representing the various factions of the Afghan people and securing for this struggling noble people the security and prosperity it deserves.

Mr. Chairman, we had hoped that this conference would convene when Somalia's domestic problems were a thing of the past. Since the start of the conflict, we in the kingdom have been trying to surround and contain it, without bias to any side, with the aim of preserving a dear part of our greater Islamic homeland as a strong, unified people and territory. Our feverish efforts continue in this domain, and we wish that God would crown this effort with success so that the fraternal people of Somalia may turn a painful and bloody page and welcome a new page of concorde and harmony in its national unity.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot leave the subject of political challenges around this nation without drawing the attention of the venerable conference to the tragedy of the Islamic minorities in a number of states. While each state has the right to ask its citizens for allegiance, the Islamic minorities have the right to live in peace, without being subjected to quarrels over their religion, prevented from performing their religious rites, or deprived of their distinctive identity. [passage omitted]

We are called upon to make decisive resolutions that remove the obstacles to the way of trade between the Islamic states, permit the freedom of investment between them, and open up new channels that allow businessmen and financiers to set up joint industrial and agricultural projects. Experience has proved time and again that market economy is more capable of responding to the needs of society than the planned economies and that the sound road to an integrated Islamic economy begins with effective coordination that permits maximum cooperation. [passage omitted]

The joint action of the Islamic world has made a great step forward since we adopted a strategy and program of action at our third summit conference, in Mecca. On this occasion, I would like to express my appreciation for the good efforts your excellency is making in your capacity as chairman of the permanent committee of information and cultural affairs. I would also like to express my appreciation for the efforts made by His Excellency President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, chairman of the permanent committee of scientific cooperation and technolovy, and His Excellency President Turgut Ozal, chairman of the permanent committee of economic and commercial cooperation, in implementing the strategic objectives and the program of joint Islamic action. On this occasion, it is my pleasure to announce that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is donating $10 million to the activities of the Islamic Conference Organization and its subsidary bodies to enable them to serve the goals of the process of the joint Islamic action and the noble objectives included in the historic Mecca declaration. [passage omitted]

Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies: The Islamic nation is on the threshold of a new historic stage which is full of promise and surrounded by danger. If the Islamic civilization was the one which led the whole world for centuries of revival and prosperity, it is called upon insistently today to assume its leading role in managing mankind's affairs. This civilization has undoubtedly a lot to offer in a world which suffers from a spiritual vacuum and thirsts for conviction and faith. Our historical responsibilities dictate tnat we should shoulder the burden of the call for Islam, with hearts full of piety, while raising over our heads the banners of monotheism and repeating the words of God Almighty: "Already has our word been passed before to our servants sent, that they would certainly be assisted and that our forces, they surely must conquer."

Your excellency the chairman, brothers: In conclusion, I invite you, in the name of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to have your next meeting among your brethren and kinfolk in the country of the two holy mosques. Nothing would please your brothers in the Kingdom more than seeing you and welcoming you among them on the territory of the holy revelation.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Mozambique's Mocumbi on Ties

MB1211161891 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 12 DeC 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi has emphasized the need for deepening friendship and cooperation between Mozambique and all members of the Organization of Islamic Conference on the bilateral and multilateral levels. Mocumbi, who was addressing the organization's summit of the heads of state and government in Dakar, stressed that assistance for the realization of Mozambique's National Reconstruction Program would be a new effective manifestation of Islamic solidarity with Mozambique.

In his speech, Pascoal Mocumbi also discussed the Mozambican peace talks, saying that the two new protocols signed between the government and the Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, at the 8th round of talks formalized important principles to accelerate the peace process in the country.

At the summit Mocumbi was received by Joao Bernardo Vieiea, president of Guinea Bissau; Yasir 'Arafat, PLO president; and Hamed Karoui, prime minister of Tunisia. The officials discussed the developments in southern Africa during those meetings.

Tunisian President Sends Message

LD1212135191 Rabat MAP in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 12, (MAP)—Tunisian President El Abidine Ben Ali paid tribute to the considerable efforts made by King Hassan, chairman of the al-Qods committee, for the conservation of the Arab-Islamic character of the holy of city of al-Qods Asharif. In a message read on his behalf by Tunisian Premier Hamed Karoui at the 6th Islamic summit currently held in Dakar, President Ben Ali affirmed that a lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without respect of the international legality and implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. He also stressed the need to back the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the unique legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and recalled the importance granted by the maghreban countries to all peace moves in the Middle East referring in this respect to the presence of a delegation from the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) in the Madrid peace conference. Dealing with the current deep socio-economic and political changes sweeping over the whole world, President Ben Ali said these should prompt the Islamic ummah to weld its ranks, coordinate stances and consolidate cooperation to protect its interests and preserve its cultural, religious and civilisation legacy.

Saudi Arabia Waives Debts of 8 ICO Members

LD1212200991 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec 11, SPA—Eight members of the organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) benefited from the Kingdom's decision to waive all debts owed to it by least developed Islamic countries, Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister said in Dakar on Wednesday. In a statement to SPA, Aba-al-Khayl said according to the decision which was conveyed by Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the national guard, who is leading the Kingdom's delegation to the sixth Islamic summit, to president Abdou Diouf of Senegal on Tuesday on behalf of custodian of the Two holy mosques King Fahd, Somalis, Djibouti, Niger, Senegal, Guinea, Uganda, Comoro Islands and Cameroon will be relieved of repaying the loans which they received from the Kingdom over the past years and which totaled dlrs 310 million. Aba-al-Khayl said the Saudi initiative aims at lessing the sufferings of the Islamic African people who were facing long spills of drought, poor harvest and low living condition.

Kuwaiti Minister Meets Pakistani Counterpart

NC0712134991 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met at his residence in Dakar last night with the Pakistani foreign minister.

Shaykh al-Sabah briefed the Pakistani minister on the issue of the Kuwaiti detainees in Iraqi prisons and called on Pakistan to play a more active role in pressing the Iraqi regime, through international organizations, to release all the Kuwaiti detainees.

Roundup of Bilateral Meetings at Dakar Summit

LD1312153791

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of reports on meetings held on the sidelines of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Dakar.

IRAN

PLO—"President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 11 December at his residence in Dakar. 'Arafat submitted a report on recent Zionist crimes in the occupied territories and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran as a state that continues to support the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thanking 'Arafat for his report, expressed displeasure over the Palestinians' participation in the new plot under the guise of peace. He stressed the need to continue the struggle for the liberation of Palestine and the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people." (Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Dec)

USSR—Hashemi-Rafsanjani met separately representatives of the Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. (Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 12 Dec)

SFRY—Hashemi-Rafsanjani met Alija Izetbegovic, president of the SFRY Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, on 12 December and "exchanged views with Izetbegovic on the situation in strife-torn Yugoslavia." (Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 12 Dec)

Sierra Leone—Hashemi-Rafsanjani met Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh on 11 December. Sierra Leone's president "expressed his joy at the extremely good relations between the two countries and praised the Islamic Republic's aid activities in that country, especially the Construction Jihad's activities in rural Sierra Leone." Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Sierra Leone leader for his "explanations" and reiterated Iran's "principled policy" on "expanding and strengthening" ties with Third World states, particularly African states. (Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Dec)

Momoh also briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the "existing problems in Liberia and the risk of their spreading to the neighboring countries and expressed concern at interference of certain foreign countries." Hashemi-Rafsanjani "thanked Momoh for the information" and reiterated Iran's stand on expanding ties with Third World states. (Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 12 Dec)

Uganda—Hashemi-Rafsanjani met Ugandan Vice President Samson Kisekka and received a report on "the trend in the economic and political cooperation between the two countries." Kisekka called on Iran to help "extend" Uganda's Islamic university, a call which Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed in the interest of expanding relations with African countries. (Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Dec)

LIBYA

Senegal—Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, met Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on 11 December. Diouf praised Libya for its support for Islam and Muslims and thanked Libya for its support for holding the summit in Senegal. (Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Dec)

Mauritania—Al-Bishari met the Mauritanian foreign minister on 11 December. (Tripoli JANA in English 0809 GMT 12 Dec)

Guinea-Bissau—Al-Bishari met Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira on 11 December on bilateral cooperation between the two countries. (Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 12 Dec)

MOROCCO

PLO—Moroccan Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki met 'Arafat on "the latest developments on the Arab and Islamic scenes." (Rabat MAP in English 1246 GMT 12 Dec)

Iran—Laraki met Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 11 December on bilateral relations and "means of boosting them further for the interests of the Islamic nation." Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked Laraki to convey his "fraternal salutations" to King Hassan II. (Rabat MAP in English 1246 GMT 12 Dec)

Guinea-Bissau—Laraki met Vieira on 11 December. (Rabat MAP in English 1246 GMT 12 Dec)

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkey—Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, met Turkish President Turgut Ozal on 10 December. (Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec)

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials Comment on Washington Talks

Jerusalem To Become Chief Issue

AU1212162691 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 12 (AFP) - Palestinians are to press for immediate discussion of the sensitive Jerusalem issue at the Middle East peace talks in Washington after Jewish settlers Thursday took over an Arab quarter of the city.

"In the face of Israel's chosen policy of fait accompli, we've decided that the issue of Jerusalem will henceforth be examined above all else during the bilateral negotiations," Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni told AFP.

Jewish settlers, helped by hundreds of Israeli police and border guards, took over five Arab homes at dawn and forced out their residents in East Jerusalem's village of Silwan.

Settlers had already been occupying a sixth house there since early October.

The Palestinians, at Washington's request, had tacitly agreed to delay raising the sensitive issue of Jerusalem in the U.S.-inspired peace process since it could wreck the negotiations.

Jerusalem is sacred to Muslims, Jews and Christians. Israel has proclaimed the city as its capital, while it is also claimed by the Palestinians as the capital of a future independent Palestine.

U.S. 'Backing Away' From Agreements

*JN1212095691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Dec 91 p 18*

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] Responsible, high-ranking Palestinian sources have expressed satisfaction with Jordan's firm support for the Palestinian position on the bilateral talks in Washington.

In addition to its fraternal and principled position, the sources said, Jordan, as always, is implementing the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement diligently and honestly.

As for developments in the U.S. State Department corridors on the first day of the bilateral talks and Israel's intransigent refusal to meet with an independent Palestinian delegation, the Palestinian sources said that a decision made earlier cannot be revoked under any circumstances. The sources said that the question of an independent delegation is a substantive, not a procedural issue; it affects the final shape of the solution to the Palestinian problem and indeed to the entire Arab-Israeli conflict.

Explaining the position taken after intensive contacts last night among Palestinian negotiators and advisers in Washington, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Dakar, and PLO headquarters in Tunis, the sources said that the shape of the current talks will deeply affect the final solution and the Palestinian people's destiny, independence, and rights. Harming the right to self-determination starts at this point, and encroaching upon the Palestinian delegation would eventually affect the Palestinian identity, the sources explained.

The sources emphasized that there can be no retreat from this decision, and they held the United States responsible. They said the United States is openly backing away from all that was reached in Madrid during the first round of the peace talks. They noted that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was given 28 seats, 14 for each side; the delegation had two heads and two seats; and each head delivered his own speech.

The Palestinian sources dismissed the U.S. retreat as harmful to the credibility of the U.S. Administration and all the documents it presented. The sources wondered: What prevents the United States from backing down from other obligations in the future, especially the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and President George Bush's 6 March commitment to the principle of land for peace.

The Palestinian sources recalled that there exist U.S. guarantees for the negotiations to be conducted separately between the Israelis on the one hand and both the Jordanians and Palestinians on the other. The U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians, moreover, talks about two tracks: a Palestinian delegation negotiating with an Israeli delegation, and separate Arab delegations negotiating with Israeli delegations.

The sources say that minutes of Arab-U.S. meetings showing such an understanding are available to them.

On another level, the sources disclosed that the United States applied pressure on the Palestinian delegation through direct contacts held over the past two days. The aim was to please the Israelis at the expense of the Palestinians, and to enable the Israeli delegation to make gains to match those made in Madrid by the Palestinian delegation in particular, and the Arab delegations in general. The aim was also to dissipate the sympathy drawn by the Palestinians.

The ranking Palestinian sources very clearly describe what has been taking place in Washington for more than a week now as U.S. collusion.

Israel Changes Position

*LD1212003191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 11 Dec 91*

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, affirmed that the Israelis' insistence on refusing to negotiate with the Palestinians, other than within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, constitutes a change in their position and a demolition of everything that had been agreed upon. The reason is that the Israelis do not want to recognize the Palestinian people after what happened in Madrid.

Qaddumi Urges Sanctions Against Israel

*NC1212190091 London MBC Television in Arabic
1806 GMT 12 Dec 91*

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO Political Department, by unidentified MBC correspondent in Dakar; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] As for what is currently going on in Washington, what do you expect within the next few hours, particularly as the Israeli side has announced that it will not stay in Washington after Friday?

[Qaddumi] The Israeli delegation undoubtedly does not want peace; they are placing obstacles in the negotiations road. Whenever we remove one obstacle, they set up another. This is clear evidence that Israel is a racist, expansionist, and settlement-seeking state which rejects peace. It is the hotbed of tension in the region. Economic sanctions must be imposed on it. Europe and America are called on to impose sanctions similar to those imposed on South Africa, until it surrenders to the international will.

[Correspondent] Has Palestine presented this demand for sanctions to any international organization?

[Qaddumi] We will present this demand at the proper time.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Qaddumi.

Palestinian Delegates PLO Members

TA1312071891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] An adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat says several members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington are members of the PLO. In an interview with the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-NADWAH, Nabil Sha'th said that 'Arafat is in continual contact with the delegation. He also complained that the United States is supporting Israel and putting pressure on the Palestinians. He predicted that the change in U.S. attitudes would lead to the failure of the Washington talks. But Sha'th added that the peace conference would continue and, in the end, there will be a positive change in the situation of the Palestinians.

DFLP Urges Talks Be Halted Due to Settlements

NC1212200191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Palestinian leader Nayif Hawatimah [leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP] has called on the Palestinian negotiating team to the Washington peace talks to halt the talks if Israel does not stop its settlement of the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to REUTER, he said Israel is overwhelming the Palestinian negotiators in Washington with procedural matters far from the fundamental issues that should be discussed.

Sha'th Says U.S. Cannot Repeal UN Zionism Act

JN1312152291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th today announced that the United States will not succeed in repealing the UN General Assembly resolution which brands Zionism as a form of racism. Sha'th said that the United States needs a two-thirds majority to revoke the resolution and that it has no chance of success in achieving this.

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks on Economic, Foreign Policy

NC1212183691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak met today with the Supreme Judicial Council after inaugurating the largest courts complex in Upper Egypt in Luxor. After the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak met with the council's members and explained Egypt's domestic and foreign policy and national action issues in Egypt.

The Supreme Judicial Council, the justice minister, presidents of the courts of appeal, and public prosecution members held an open meeting with President Mubarak, who answered questions on several topics by members of the judiciary. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak touched on the economic situation, noting the large growth during the past 30 years in Egypt's population. He noted that Egypt had encountered difficult stages represented in a huge increase in population which resulted in increased burdens. This growth rate required economic changes and dealing with the new developments of the new world order. President Mubarak pointed out that economic reform has become an indispensable necessity. He pointed out that the core of this reform entails that one monetary unit govern the market and its mechanism to achieve a balance between supply and demand and between wages and prices on sound and definite foundations. This goal dictates that society change and rationalize consumption patterns within the framework of an overall change in economic structures and the establishment of public, private, and investment sectors to secure growth.

President Mubarak explained Egypt's policy and its adherence to gradual economic reform toward an open economy suitable to the society. He noted the hazards of an unbalanced mix of democratic reform and economic reform. He pointed out that the objective of economic reform is to stop the widening gap between revenues and obligations to avoid reaching the point of no return. He noted that the goal is to reach the real market price through careful steps.

Information Minister al-Sharif said President Mubarak noted that the loans Egypt obtained were spent on the infrastructure. President Mubarak elaborated on the effects of the collapse in the oil prices and the halt in the remittances of Egyptians abroad and their effect on the Egyptian economy in the 1980's. President Mubarak noted the economic changes under the new world order and their effects on the world.

On Egypt's foreign policy, Information Minister al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained Egypt's relations with the outside world, its international relations, and its interaction with the world and regional issues, Egypt's eagerness to achieve stability in the region and its policy of adopting peace based on justice, renouncing all forms of terrorism, and honesty in addressing problems and crises by virtue of its weight, role, and respect for international legitimacy. President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt's relations with the Arab countries are based on honesty, frankness, joint responsibility, and cooperation in all fields.

Explaining the controls and characteristics of political, economic, and social performance in Egypt, President Mubarak noted that they are characterized by concern about responsibility, safeguarding social peace, heeding reason in making decisions, and respecting objective thinking in making all decisions.

Foreign Ministry on Israeli Seizure of Arab Homes

NC1212144291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry official spokesman has condemned the Israeli Government's decision to enable Jewish settlers to take possession of houses in the village of Silwan east of Jerusalem. The spokesman said that this decision is a continuation of the violation of internationally recognized Palestinian rights. It is considered to be a clear violation of the Geneva conventions and constitutes a defiance of the efforts currently being made to achieve peace in the Middle East, and is an unwarranted provocation (? at a time) when attempts are being made to advance the ongoing negotiations process between the Arab and Israeli delegations in Washington. The spokesman said that Egypt still hopes that the Israeli Government will refrain from such behavior that is rejected by all forces concerned about establishing peace.

Foreign Ministry Hails EC Statement on Peace

NC1212141291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has welcomed the European summit statement released in Maastricht on the peace efforts in the Middle East. The Foreign Ministry statement said that the European summit reasserted the EC's interest in reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian issue. The European statement emphasized the EC's resolve to continue efforts with the cosponsors of the Madrid conference in the various stages of the peace efforts.

The Foreign Ministry noted that the European summit statement asserts anew the EC's vigorous position on the need to halt the construction of settlements in the occupied territories and the need for Israel to abide by the fourth Geneva convention regarding its practices in these territories. Egypt has consistently supported these positions. The European summit statement mirrored a conscious understanding of the nature of negotiations in their various stages, their links, and the importance of good-faith participation by all parties in the negotiations to advance the peace efforts and establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Ties With Jordan, Yemen Seen Improving

PM1012123691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 91 p 4

[Report by unidentified correspondent: "Reports of Detente in Egypt-Yemen Relations; Preparations in Cairo and Amman for Resumption of Higher Committee Meetings"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources in Cairo expect an agreement to be reached between Egypt and Jordan on resuming the ordinary session of the Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee before the end of December.

The sources say that the next session will be held under the cochairmanship of the Egyptian and Jordanian prime ministers and it will make a thorough review of Egyptian-Jordanian joint work and achievements before relations between the two countries became tense.

The sources add that the date of the next session will be set during the summit meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan expected in the next few days.

Meanwhile, informed sources in Cairo expect Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to visit the Egyptian capital sometime this month.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT these sources said that the visit is expected to take place after the expected Cairo meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn.

The sources linked the two visits, arguing that they would mark the beginning of a thaw in the crisis which severely plagued relations between Egypt and the two countries after the Gulf war.

The Egyptian-Yemeni summit, the sources say, will discuss the basis on which Yemen would participate in the regional multilateral negotiations aspect of the peace process. They indicated that Yemen has agreed in principle to participate in such negotiations.

In a move to remedy relations with Egypt, Yemen recently released a large number of Egyptian fishermen that it captured in Yemeni territorial waters some months ago.

Loan Agreement With Switzerland Signed

NC1312090391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Egypt signed agreements today with the Swiss Government and a group of Swiss banks under which it will obtain 60 million Swiss francs, half of which will be a government grant, the other half of which will be a loan from the Swiss banks. Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the agreement for Egypt and the Swiss ambassador in Cairo signed for the Swiss side. Ambassador Rafiq Salah-al-Din, first under secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, attended the signing.

The money will be used for purchasing commodities and services from Switzerland for projects in the electricity, industry, supply, agriculture, and transport sectors. The 30-million-franc loan will be repayed to the Swiss banks at six month installments after a 39 month grace period. The interest rate is 1.5/8 percent, including the rates of debiting the bank bonds in the Swiss market.

The Swiss Government exempted Egypt from paying debts estimated at 44 million francs and decided to grant Egypt $30 million francs to be allocated to the social fund because of the Gulf crisis.

Libya

Part 1 of al-Qadhdhafi AL-AHRAM Interview

NC1112155891 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Dec 91 p 3,5

[First part of interview with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by AL-AHRAM editor in chief Ibrahim Nafi' in al-'Aziziyah, Libya, on 1 December]

[Text] [Nafi'] The United States delivered to Libya and other Arab governments a memorandum that included the reasons and evidence prompting it to accuse Libya of responsibility for planning the explosion of the Pan Am airliner over Scotland in 1988. A French judge also issued a decision accusing four Libyans of bombing the French UTA airliner over Nigeria in 1989. The two explosions left a large number of civilians dead. How true are these accusations? And what has Libya done to refute the myriad evidence outlined in the U.S. case and in the decision of the French investigating judge?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have no information about these incidents because we had not decided or planned anything of this sort on the political level that concerns me. I considered this an incident that we heard about like any other incidents and that is all. I was surprised when this incident was raised anew. In fact, I cannot answer this question in view of the ongoing investigations, but we cay say that politically there was absolutely no Libyan decision in this respect and we are unaware of any planning of this sort. This is not our behavior, particularly regarding the French airliner that crashed in Africa. We have nothing to do with it. Why should we blow it up? Where is the logic? A U.S. airliner took off from Frankfurt and crashed over Britain. What is our link to this incident in Europe? As a matter of fact, we felt sorry for the victims. We heard about a Korean airliner that the Russians shot down, a Libyan airliner that the Israelis shot down, and another airliner the Americans shot down. Incidents of this sort occur because someone plans them. But what do we have to do with the U.S.

airliner that took off from Frankfurt and crashed over Lockerbie, very far away from us? We felt sorry about this incident, but in fact were not concerned with it. We have nothing to do with the area and the airliner that crashed in the Niger desert while on its way from Nigeria. Our relations with Chad were severed at that time. We felt sorry when we heard this, just as other people do when they hear such news, but we were not concerned. I personally was so surprised when the issue was raised in this way that I believed there were political intentions behind raising it this way and linking it to Libya. We finished with this issue long ago, we had nothing to do with it, and we were not concerned with it.

I have begun to doubt that the issue is one of investigation. Is it possible for an investigation to be buried for four years [as published] while there are no suspicions about it, then suddenly the curtain is lifted? There must be fabrications. We suspect that they cooked it up during the four years and fabricated the accusation against Libya. They say it is Libya, that we killed people. Can we suspect all the people who died? There are witnesses who died. This means that the issue was fabricated during the four years. They cooked it up and accused Libya. If I were a non-Libyan investigator I would ask the question: Why did they conceal the issue for four years and then suddenly lift the curtain? This long period would make us doubt evidence they brought against any country. I am speaking objectively, not because I am Libyan. This is a very important point to Libya. I have no details because the issue is a legal one. I think they mean the Libyan regime. They even spoke of overthrowing the regime in Libya and they plotted against it. They think that Libya has a president, prime minister, party, or even a class that can be overthrown.

The regime in Libya cannot be toppled, because the entire Libyan people, as was the case in Athens, is a single general assembly. Every day the Athenians formed a popular committee to run the state affairs in Athens. If you had wanted to stage a coup in Athens, against whom would you have directed it? All the people were inside the hall they call the hall of the people. The Libyan people, all those above 18, are in the popular committees.

For example, the general popular committee for justice instructed a judge from the Higher Court, Ahmad al-Zawi, to investigate the U.S. plane accident. When I asked about him, I learned that when we were in power, at the time of the Revolutionary Command Council, he was the same judge who assessed the foreign institutions that we nationalized. I recall that he once stopped me in the street and said to me: Sir, there is injustice and unfairness in the country. I said to him: In the time of the revolution, this cannot be. He said there was a Greek or Italian—I do not remember—whose hospital was nationalized and we compensated him for 10,000 dinars. The judge said: Sir, this hospital is worth no less than 20,000 dinars, and we have to pay him that much according to law. But they [other Libyan officials] said to me: Give him the least possible assessment. I cannot do that. I have to make the right assessment. This is the honest man who I heard was appointed as the investigating magistrate in charge of the U.S. plane incident.

[Nafi'] Will the judge go to America or wait here in Libya for the results of the investigation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In my view, he should go to the United Kingdom, the United States, Malta, and France. Scotland Yard should contact him anywhere and discuss matters with him. We call for the investigation to continue and to be serious.

[Nafi'] Some call for handing over the defendants and some call for compensating the victims.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Compensation is a right. But should we first know who should pay the compensation or who committed the crime? The extradition actually is a request that could forestall the investigation, delay justice, complicate the situation, and bring matters to a dead end. We must find the truth. We are certain the two Libyans have nothing to do with the incident.

If that incident was perpetrated by someone, we should find out who it was. It is not in our interest, while we fight terror, to let the real culprit go free, watching us and laughing at us. If we were fighting terror, we should not leave the real criminals at large, so they may deceive us and put us on the wrong trail. The criminal should not remain at large to strike again. If the perpetrator is not among those we are blaming, this will cause us a big problem, and you must expect him, sometime in the future, to perform more tricks and get another country in trouble. This other country may be Libya, Egypt, Syria, or any other country. The perpetrator would be able to deceive us because he knows how to kill us, because he knows the way through which to kill us. He would get hold of some bits and pieces, assemble them, and say: This looks Libyan-made, and this Egyptian-made, and this Iranian-made. The handing over of the defendants in this case would bring us to a dead end. There are no laws in any country allowing for the handing over of its citizens. Also, we have no agreements with the United States, the United Kingdom, or France allowing for the extradition of criminals if it is a matter of investigation [idha kanat al-qadiyah qadiyat tahqiq].

[Nafi'] What, exactly, are the legal measures taken so far by Libyan authorities?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Libya has commissioned a judge to investigate the matter. I believe the judge will remand the defendants in custody. Therefore, investigations will begin with them. But to arrive at a result, the Libyan judge needs the evidence available to Britain, America, and France. I do not know if it is one or two cases.

[Nafi'] Have the Americans not furnished you with the findings of their investigations?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Americans and the English have sent a memo to the Arab League secretary general. We want the Arab League to handle this entire matter, because Libya now is up against an alliance between several states. If the Americans and English at this point have not furnished the Libyan judge with any evidence, on what basis will he conduct an investigation? They requested him to hand over our people, which is illogical. As we see it, they should tell us that they are in possession of such-and-such evidence against the people we have. Did they really do such and such on a given day? Did they travel to the such-and-such country? Is their description so and so? The Libyan judge in charge of investigations will ask them: When was the last time you left your such-and-such work? When did you travel to Malta or any other country? Show me your passport. What is your profession? What is your connection with the intelligence apparatus? What is your occupation and specialization? Hence, he can accumulate evidence against the defendants and start his investigation in light of this evidence.

This link is missing, however. The Americans and British must supply the Libyan judge with the evidence available to them so he can interrogate the Libyans in that light. Without this evidence, we cannot do anything. The judge needs evidence that this or that person is connected to the incident. All the evidence available to us affirms that they have no connection with the incident.

I heard that these two are defending themselves and filing lawsuits to defend themselves and their reputation against defamation and against charges that they conspired and had contacts with intelligence and terrorism. One of them is called 'Abd-al-Basit. When they saw his photograph, they found that the picture is of a university professor or lecturer. The other person turned out to be engaged in business at present. He used to work in an airline, but he left it a long time ago and now owns a tourist facility or something like that.

The Americans and English want us to hand over the two people to them. The Libyan judge still is investigating and cannot hand over anyone. He is waiting for evidence from the Americans and the British. I was afraid that the U.S. State Department might be of the same type [not further specified]. Despite the differences between us, however, Baker is a well-balanced character.

[Nafi'] You said, Your Excellency, that the defendants already have been remanded in custody?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have heard that the judge will remand them in custody today or tomorrow, that they have already been remanded in custody, or that they will be remanded in custody within 24 or 48 hours. This is a legal matter, just like the question of when they will be released or left alone. Perhaps the law does not permit you to hold them in custody after investigations.

[Nafi'] Theoretically, if it was proved that certain Libyans are involved in such matters, what would the situation be, first for the defendants, and second, for the victims?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If it is proven that they have committed such acts, the Libyan law is severe, harsh, and opposed to terrorism. The punishment here is life imprisonment and death. [as published] As for compensation for the victims, any party—Libyan or non-Libyan—which proves that it has been adversely affected by that act must be compensated. In this case, the compensation will be paid by the individuals who committed that act; it will be their responsibility. As individuals, they will have to compensate the victims, whether they are Libyan or non-Libyan. What crime did the families who lost their members commit?

Therefore, I have suggested that a multi-article proposal be presented to the United Nations. Of these articles, there is one which calls for an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly to consider the Libyan proposal. It is a very important proposal; namely, to compensate the peoples, the families, and the individuals who have suffered from past operations of colonialism and terrorism. We bring the files out once more to settle the past accounts!

[Nafi'] What do you mean by colonialism and terrorism?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I mean that the states which fell into colonialism's grasp must be compensated—particularly those countries which were subjected to massacres, the gallows, and carnage—just as when the Germans compensated the Jews at the time of Adenauer. This means that France will pay reparations to Algeria, Italy to Libya, and Portugal to Angola. The case of Italy and Algeria are well known. When Germany compensated the Jews it set a precedent. I am referring to contemporary times rather than Hitler's Nazi Germany. This is the compensation I am referring to; not only political compensation paid by one state to another, but compensation for the victims' families. We now have Libyan families who were orphaned as a result of colonialism. Some people lost their limbs by mines planted by Italy. Some mines are still there. The number of people who were wounded or orphaned as a result of the war in Algeria is known; Algeria lost 1.5 million people. The compensation may be of a human kind; it can be paid to families rather than by one state to another, in addition to compensations paid to nations, families, individuals, and victims of plane incidents, including those which were deliberately blown up—like the plane which was attacked by an American plane [not further specified] and which claimed the lives of many civilians. Such incidents necessitate compensation. Why do they not compensate the victims of the Libyan plane which was downed over Sinai and in which many Libyans and Egyptians were killed? The same thing goes for the Italian plane [not further specified] which was hit by a missile—I do not know whether the missile was American—the Pan American plane involved in the "Lockerbie" incident, the inhabitants of Lockerbie itself who suffered, the French UTA plane, and the Korean plane which was downed by the Soviet Union. Those planes were downed deliberately. The compensation must be comprehensive. If a state cannot afford to pay the compensation, we have to set up a fund to collect sufficient money to compensate these people.

[Nafi'] Will this proposal be completed this week?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. It needs time.

[Nafi'] Since 1981 until now, relations between Libya and the United States have remained tense because of the successive accusations that Libya is harboring terrorist elements and is training, assembling, and distributing them through a computer that keeps in touch with the terrorists. These computers are in the People's Palace, which is supervised by the Libyan Liaison Office. Why hasn't Libya succeeded all these years in absolving itself from these accusations before the whole world, or why hasn't it at least attempted to do so?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If this is true, why is the question not: Why have we not seen the results of this training and work? Had Libya formed a system [manzumah], then it would have changed all the systems in the world so that they would follow the Libyan one or the course Libya wants them to follow. Had Libya in fact possessed a computer and a system in the People's Palace for more 10 years, then why haven't we seen the results of this action? Does this not show that such action is imaginary and does not exist? You or any person can visit this People's Palace. It is the palace of Arab writers. The Arab Writers Association has decided to turn it into a pan-Arab library and it is now being prepared for that purpose. It is open for anyone to visit. When has there been a coup or assassination anywhere in the world that Libya was behind?

We are asking the United States to explain what they one once told us, namely that al-Qadhdhafi had sent a team of Lebanese to kill Reagan. That issue was raised in the late 1970's [as published]. Reagan told the whole world of this, massed his fleets off Libya's coast more than once, and placed barricades and electronic defense systems around the White House. All this was shown on television and the whole world saw it. It possibly is included in the book, *Veil.*

This shows that Reagan was operating in deceptive ways, that is, they tell you that he used to get into the car through one door and exit from the other. What is the reason? They say that al- Qadhdhafi had sent a team to assassinate Reagan. Where is this team? It then became clear that an Iranian arms merchant deceived them. The problem with the Americans is that they believe every rumor. A politician lied to them and they believed him and havoc was raised. Officers from the aircraft carrier in the 6th Fleet contacted us after they finished their service and told us: We used to get orders during Reagan's rule to move to the Italian island of "Crete" [as published] because al-Qadhdhafi is going to do something. Before reaching Crete, we received orders to sail to the Gulf of Sirte because al-Qadhdhafi is going to do something. It then became clear later on that these were mere rumors. Libyan spies who fled after the revolution talked and people believed them. The aircraft carriers' soldiers said that they did not sleep at night during Reagan's rule. The U.S. Administration is in fact very sensitive to rumors, especially those related to terrorism. The spies know this and play on it. President Husni Mubarak once told me: Is it true that you are doing such-and-such a thing? He told me of the parties that say al-Qadhdhafi is doing so and so. Is it conceivable that you are doing such things?

It is evident that all these things were mere lies and slander.

In fact, we do not think or do anything of the sort. They are very sensitive to the word terror. The liars and spies know that the United States is very sensitive on this point and therefore they play on this sensitive spot. When they want the Americans to move in a particular direction, they claim that this side will commit a terrorist action, act against it and do this and that.

[Nafi'] It has been reported that the Libyan intelligence men are the ones who kidnapped Imam Musa al-Sadr in 1978 and that he died while under detention in Libya. Is there a reason for these allegations? Or was that the reason behind the role Libya had at the outset of the war in Lebanon?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Before I answer this question, I must finish the first question. Some of what they say is true, but not in the way they present it, which is that Libya has set aside the People's Palace for terrorism. They are mixing up this issue with another international issue, which is "international support". The People's Palace was a center for liberation movements. When the Soviet Union abandoned these international liberation movements, they moved to Libya. But liberation movements have now been eliminated, including those of Latin and Central America. With the passage of time, especially after the Soviet Union's collapse, this story came to an end because liberation movements were mostly communist. Afterward, it became clear that communism is a lie and people have since abandoned it. It is a well-known fact that the backbone of liberation movements is communism. When I talk about international liberation movements in connection with the Soviet Union, I am generally referring to the Marxist-Leninist movements. But the collapse of the Soviet Union put an end to these movements. They are dead and gone. In Latin America, they have handed over their weapons, emerged from the forests, and moved to the cities. They even have participated in elections, such as in Nicaragua for example. No longer is there any secret, leftist, Marxist, or Leninist action, nor is there any armed action. Now, for example, if at Lumumba University in the Soviet Union they study the Marxist ideology, we here are studying the Third World theory—the Green Book, which has no relation to violence or terrorism. The Green Book is opposed to the use of violence. It calls for a peaceful transformation to socialism, now prevalent in the United States, Britain, and other countries. A company which in our part of the world belonged to one person now belongs to 1 million employees. This is the socialism the Green Book discusses. They used to call it popular capitalism, and the Green Book calls it popular socialism. It is the same system known in the United

States and Britain, companies whose ownership is transferred to the workers. We are studying this theory, a practical ideology unique to the Green Book. This theory cannot require the use of weapons or violence, because they contradict the ideology of the Green Book, which renounces violence in the first place.

[Nafi'] And regarding Imam Musa al-Sadr?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In actual fact, I never met him in Libya. But they said he was among the popular delegations which came here to participate in the revolution celebrations in 1982 or 1981; I cannot remember exactly. As long as he came here to participate in the revolution anniversary, I do not believe there could have been a hostile atmosphere between us, nor a dispute or disagreement.

He came to take part in our revolution celebrations, so how could he disappear? On the one hand, I was told that I was late in meeting him and he got upset because I met a number of delegations before him and did not meet him. There was no preconceived plan in our minds. I received many delegations. They told me he got upset and asked to leave before the meeting because I received some people before him who he felt he should have had priority over. They told me he got upset and left. Investigations revealed that he traveled to Italy, arrived there, and was seen on board the plane with his group. He checked into a hotel in Italy and then disappeared. You know that during that time, Lebanon was more or less like a jungle which contained Shiites, Sunnis, Muslims, Christians, God's soldiers [jundallah—not further specified], Hizballah, the devil's party [not further specified], the hostages, and kidnappings. Lebanon had all of this. Most certainly, Musa al-Sadr was the victim of the Lebanese battle and the fighting over leadership. One went up, the other went down. He most definitely is the victim of Lebanese events.

I regret that this operation took place and that it was linked to Libya during his visit. We regret this. Why should they investigate this? Let them investigate, but why at the same time cry over Musa al-Sadr alone? Why do they not cry over Kamal Junblatt and Mustafa Ma'ruf and his family and investigate their murder? Why not cry over Rashid Karami and Lebanon's Mufti Khalid? Why do they discriminate between this Shiite and that Sunni? Why do they do this for this Shiite and do that for that Sunni? They should cry over these people and investigate their murder, stage a strike or a demonstration, and pinpoint responsibility. We did investigate Imam al-Sadr's disappearance and failed to reach a conclusion. He left Libya angry, went to Rome, put up at a hotel, and disappeared.

[Nafi'] A number of hostages have been released in Lebanon. Did Libya have any role in this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course. As a matter of fact, I made appeals. I made appeals on several occasions and stressed that kidnapping people was inadmissible, particularly our friend Terry Waite. He visited me in Libya, we had our picture taken together, and he presented me with a Bible signed by the British archbishop, who phoned me and thanked me for intervening with Shiite organizations. I requested the release of four Britons detained on charges of spying. Waite came here and made mediation efforts for their release. I intervened and asked the organizations to issue an amnesty before putting them on trial, because there was a request for Libyan detainees in Britain. I promised Terry Waite, whom we respect and revere, to help them. I told him that I would contact all parties in Lebanon and say: Shame on you to detain a clergyman who is a friend of all and who played a role in releasing hostages in Libya [as published]. Make use of him and he will one day help release our hostages in his country. Why kidnap him? I exerted efforts and, thank God, he was released. For your information, they wanted to execute him, but I extended appeals and owing to our intercession, he is still alive. We exerted great efforts toward this end.

[Nafi'] Libya was not only accused of giving shelter to Abu-Nidal, alias Sabri al-Banna, but was said to have offered more than $1 million to Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, to plan attacks against U.S. forces in West Germany in 1987 and 1988. Regardless of whether these accusations are true or not, to what extent does Colonel al-Qadhdhafi believe in terrorism as a means to achieve pan-Arab goals?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Terrorism cannot be a means to achieve goals. Terrorism generates terrorism, distorts sacred causes, and harms innocent people. Instead of winning innocent people and their families we win their hostility. Suppose a Palestinian shot down an airliner, like the Pan Am airliner. All the American and British families and everyone in Lockerbie would turn against the Palestinian cause and would say that since the Palestinians killed their people they cannot support them. A person might say: My father was sympathetic to the Palestinian cause but they killed him, so now I am against it. This tale occurred in a French book entitled "The Horrible," and there is another book entitled "The Excitement Against Me" [as published] about a movie scriptwriter who supports the Palestinian and Arab causes and loves al-Qadhdhafi. The CIA and the Mosad decide to turn him against al-Qadhdhafi and the Arabs. They bring him some people who speak Arabic, wear Arabic garb, and love al-Qadhdhafi. They kidnap his fiancee and humiliate her before him, and write graffiti asking who did it. They tell him that it was the Arabs and al-Qadhdhafi, whom you love, who did it. He then says: From now on, I am against the Arabs and the Arab cause. Thus they succeed in transforming a person by intelligence ploys. This shows that anyone who embarks on terrorist acts harms friends and supporters. What do we win from terrorism? As a matter of fact, terrorism cannot be a method. I challenge anyone who accuses me personally or official Libya of terrorism and proves it committed any terrorist act. I have the courage to confront anything.

For example, our relations with the Irish Republican Army [IRA] have harmed us, were incorrect, and should end, because the IRA carries out operations that, in my view, are terrorist. We used to think that these operations truly constituted a struggle for liberation. We have to differentiate between the IRA and the Northern Ireland cause. For me, the cause of Northern Ireland is just and if I had a vote I would vote for it as part of a political settlement. But the IRA is in fact engaged in operations we cannot accept. Thatcher attacked us and they mounted an operation against her in her hotel. I heard that she was having a meeting in the hotel and they caused an explosion in front of the door. When they mounted the mortar attack on [Prime Minister John] Major's headquarters [sentence incomplete as published].

Libyans are very sensitive about demolishing towns. I was always aware of the Libyan towns that were demolished before the revolution, the towns that were demolished during World War II because of Italian imperialism. Foreigners have fought "among them" on Libyan soil. We are emotional and very sensitive about shelling cities. We do not like explosions in cities. The United States came while we were asleep and unjustly bombed our streets and homes, killing our children. I heard an IRA bombing operation took place in London. London is a city where all people, not just British live. There are Libyans, Arabs, and Muslims living there. To fire mortars on London is a terrorist act. This is the truth. We cannot give up our support for the legitimate struggle of nations fighting for freedom and self-determination. If a nation chooses the road of armed struggle we have to support a just cause, but terror must be separated from armed struggle. I do not think there is one sensible person who supports terror. There is not one revolutionary who supports terror. I am a revolutionary, not a terrorist. There is a difference between terror and revolution. There is no connection between revolution and terror. I cannot deny being a revolutionary. I am a revolutionary and my case is therefore clear. They are welcome to talk to me or negotiate with me as a revolutionary. I am a revolutionary against terror, imperialism, and injustice. We do not oppress or terrorize people or occupy their land.

[Nafi'] How about Abu-Nidal, whose name pops up in all documents, and Ahmad Jibril?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Ahmad Jibril is not a terrorist. To say that Jibril is a terrorist is to condemn the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people. Regrettably, on the 20th anniversary of the revolution, something happened between Jibril and Libya, and he has not visited Libya since Revolution Day [1 September] 1989. What happened then was possibly a dispute over assistance. We did not give him or deny him assistance, we just ignored him. He did not attend the celebrations. He was in Tripoli and left Libya one or two days before the celebrations. Since then, there has been a rupture between us. However, Ahmad Jibril cannot be called a terrorist. To prove it, he is still living openly in Syria. They accused him of masterminding the Pan Am bombing. For years now we have been saying to them: Ahmad Jibril would not do anything like that. He would not blow up a plane. He is not a terrorist. Jibril is a fighter for a sacred cause. Even at a time when we disagreed with him we maintained that he did not bomb the Pan Am plane. They used to say: No, it is Jibril. The Israelis still say that Jibril is responsible for the Pan Am bombing. Go back to their statements, their documents, and the .estimony they gave. Jibril did not plan such a crime. Thank God the investigations moved away from Jibril, the revolutionaries, and Iran. We are glad that Jibril was not found to be a terrorist. After that, the blame was shifted to Libya for political reasons. If the investigation remains fair and unbiased, Libya will be excluded as Jibril was. As for Abu-Nidal, we are exaggerating his stature. He was in Libya and did not do anything. He remained inactive and his organization even protested and said to him: You are just sitting there in Libya doing nothing. A split followed and his organization was no more. Abu-Nidal has been branded a terrorist. Therefore, we cannot say who his Arab friends are. I believe that all European countries know the connections of Abu-Nidal with Arab officials, including companies and commercial concerns who have no relation with terrorism. Abu-Nidal's friends and business and financial associates are officials of Arab countries as well as U.S. monopolies.

The last time I saw Abu-Nidal was in 1989. I have not seen him since then. When I met him I made the meeting public; I met with U.S. journalists and told them that I had met Abu-Nidal. They asked: Why did you meet him? I said it was none of their business. Abu-Nidal may have left Libya at the time he broke away from his group. He may have feared for himself in Libya and during the Gulf war. In fact, all Palestinian organizations supported Iraq. Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] has people in Libya who went to Kuwait and from there to Iraq to enter camps.

[Nafi'] Do you not have a training camp belonging to Abu-Nidal?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Who said that he is undertaking armed struggle and that we train him? Nobody. Right now, I see a policy of peace and direct negotiations under way. It is not in the Palestinians' interest to get involved in military action at this stage. The Israelis will say that the Palestinians do not care and that they lack discipline. They raid them with planes every day in Lebanon. The Israelis are being spoiled by the Americans; they conduct raids and do not care. But who will spoil the Arabs? Therefore, all they can do is wait for the outcome of the peace march and direct negotiations. No Palestinian is talking about armed struggle. Who will we train then? We were training Abu-al-'Abbas and he left for Iraq. His followers said that he had gone to Iraq and even to Iran!

We recently appointed a free officer to head the intelligence apparatus. He was appointed by the General People's Congress. We nominated him and he was appointed on a temporary basis by the General People's Congress until the nomination is seconded by the General People's Congress. [sentence as published] This is the first time a free officer has assumed an executive post. Thank God that free officers are not connected to terrorism, because they were the ones who made the revolution.

The intelligence apparatus had been left as it was since the time of the monarchy, with a police officer at its head. It was later enriched by new elements—officers and young people. But free officers are not connected to terrorism.

There is another story; when the issue of Lockerbie and the French plane was raised—together with all those rumors about our relations with Abu-Nidal, the training camps, relations with the IRA, and about Libyan weapons—we reconsidered the intelligence apparatus, started to purge it, and began to look into infiltrations. I think that some infiltrations have occurred. Hence, this free officer will look into matters retroactively, or from now on. His name is Col. Yusuf al-Durayn. He is in fact a writer and man of letters more than a military man. He is known in literary circles. He will visit the Soviet Union to see how the KGB contributed to the establishment of Libyan intelligence. All eastern European states had relations with our intelligence apparatus. He will find out how this apparatus was used, how it was made to deviate from its course, and the people who were involved in the process, because our reputation has been smeared and we regret that. How can we be revolutionaries and advocates of liberation and turn all of a sudden into terrorists? I am a revolutionary and an international naysayer. I am a revolutionary against injustice; a revolutionary who revolts for the sake of the oppressed and the people who struggle for liberation. A revolutionary. To be considered a terrorist is something I cannot tolerate. They have distorted our image completely. For instance, they hear about Pakistani students who are studying Arabic in a camp—where they eat, drink, and learn Arabic—and say it is a registered camp for training terrorists. All this harmed our image. They want to hit him [not further identified] and kill innocent people. They read the Green Book in Latin America.

There is a stadium called the Green Stadium and anyone can go there and lecture in it. They said: by God, it is Latin America. They have translators and therefore they are learning the theory there. It appears to the world as a military training camp. For example, they mentioned the al-Qal'ah camp. I said: Yusuf, go and tell us what is there: Palestinian families and refugees, and their conditions are very bad. They called this a camp. These are samples. Everyone can go and see the Palestinian families. To the United States, this camp is a terrorist one. The brothers in Egypt provided us with questions. I told him: Go, Yusuf, and see for us. He said: This is a scouts camp exactly like the Abu-Qayr camp in Alexandria. Why do they say it is a terrorist camp? The African liberation movements in Zambia, Namibia, and the other African countries that recently became independent also trained in it. Once I addressed them. They graduated, left, and took part in independence. That was a long time ago, in the seventies. It seems that there were some who wrote reports saying that it included Palestinians and liberation movements. I said: This is a scouts camp.

They attacked the Sidi Bilal camp in 1987 because they had it in writing from the U.S. Embassy that it is one of the targets. They killed Libyans; Libyans were martyred. They hit a camp in 1987 that had the naval academy and they also hit the Ra's al-Hilal camp and Tulmaythah. They said: The Popular Front led by George Habash had soldiers training in these two camps in the mid-seventies. That is correct. There was estrangement between us and the PLO. The Palestinian organizations in Libya set up ramparts and closed roads. We asked them: What has happened? They said: We are defending Palestinians. I told them: How do you defend Palestinians while you are in our country? You are in the heart of our country and fighting us. The two camps were closed from that day.

If we want to open camps for Palestinians, we will not keep it a secret. The fact is that as long as Libya is passionate about the Arab nation, it has to say: We are opening camps to train Palestinians to liberate Palestine and whatever will be will be. But we have not decided this yet because Palestinians want a recognized state. They are divided among themselves. They have places where they can train in Syria and Lebanon. Afghanistan is open to anyone who wants to train. All of Iran is open for training. I do not think that they need Libya to train in, particularly as Libya "is pushing them against the wall."

Part 2 of Interview

NC1112184591 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Dec 91 pp 3, 5

[Second part of interview with Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' in al-'Aziziyah, Libya on 1 December]

[Text] [Nafi'] Does Libya support European and Asian liberation movements and revolutionaries, such as the Irish Republican Army [IRA] or the Islamic Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] in the Philippines? What methods are used to support them? Do these movements have camps or offices in Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course we used to support the IRA but now we assert that our relationship has ended. This is our conviction and we do not care what anyone thinks. When we were convinced of our alliance with the IRA—on which I spoke—I announced my support, funding, and arming of the IRA. Now I am convinced that this relationship should end. I say it courageously: It must end. When I said we are allied with the IRA, I announced it in a speech published in all British newspapers. Now, with the same courage, I say that this relationship has ended.

There is no colonialist background between Libya and Britain: We consider the British Army to have helped liberate Libya from Italian colonialism during World War II. When we formed the Libyan Liberation Army 9 km from the border—travelers from Cairo can see the monument—the army joined Montgomery during World War II, and we entered Libya before the Eighth Army.

There is no background of bad blood between us and the English. Why do they hate us now? It could be because of our relationship with the IRA. I believe this is now moving to its finale; their terrorist nature having been exposed.

[Nafi'] How about the Islamic MNLF of the Philippines?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Islamic Conference Organization and all Muslim countries recognize the MNLF movement, whose leader Nur Misauri is well-known, traveling to every Arab country where he says: We are an Islamic nation. I personally agreed with Marcos giving the Muslims autonomy. Marcos opposed, and did not implement the Tripoli Agreement.

Our relations with Curazon Aquino are very good now. She resorts to us when whe wants to pacify Muslims there, and in giving them their right to autonomy. We do not wish for a fragmented Philippines, but each party must be given its rights, which stem from the unity of the Philippines. When we saw that there was a need to fight, we armed and trained Muslims during Marcos' days. Then we reached agreement with Marcos and stopped sending weapons. We reached the Tripoli Agreement. Aquino took power, saying she would implement it.

[Nafi'] Your Excellency, you spoke about camps, saying there are no more. But are liberation movements' offices still here?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I believe that we still have offices here. The PLO definitely has. If there are liberation movements' offices in Libya, they belong to movements which everyone recognizes, and are registered at the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization].

[Nafi'] How does Libya differentiate between people who enjoy the right to political asylum and those accused of terrorist acts who take refuge in Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We have neither political refugees nor terrorists. A political refugee is one involved in politics who takes refuge in another country which protects him. We do not open our country to, approve, or protect a terrorist who indulges in terrorist acts. Terrorism means killing civilians and transferring the battle to a different field to serve different objectives. If a Palestinian operates in Palestine he fights the Israeli Army. This is legitimate. If he goes to Israeli students to kill them or blows up a bus, a building, or a hotel, this is terrorism, even though it targets those who occupy Palestine. If you want to liberate Palestine, strike at the Israeli Army. Nobody approves of terrorism.

[Nafi'] Is Libya willing to receive an international investigation committee representing the United Nations, the Organization of American states, the OAU, and the Arab League?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We do not object. We are certain of our innocence. Let any committee come to investigate.

[Nafi'] Are you willing to accept its findings?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We will accept any international technical committee's findings.

[Nafi'] What is Libya's stand on chemical weapons?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I support the UN proposal to conduct a UN-sponsored international inspection by a committee authorized to remove nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and ban their manufacture, sale, and use. We fight AIDS, cancer, malaria, and polio, yet manufacture destructive objects. Does anyone make AIDS? Does anyone build a factory to produce malaria? Human conduct has deviated seriously. All chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons must be destroyed. Their use and sale must be banned.

[Nafi'] What about the al-Rabitah factory?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We have agreed to work together—Egyptian and Libyan pharmaceutical companies—to utilize this factory. I asked President Mubarak to contact a European state—France or Germany, or even America—to help build. It was rumored that the factory manufactures chemical weapons. What can we do if America believes anything? This is America's mistake. It believes rumors, spies, and terrorists who defect from their countries. This factory is modern, envied by some companies which saw its products filling the markets. They wanted to destroy it. They pinned that chemical weapons thing to it then burned it. We rebuilt.

[Nafi'] Do you agree that Libya needs to try hard to correct its image to the world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] They have, regrettably, distorted our image. The enemies have succeeded, but not in destroying us from within, or in hindering the great man-made river projects and changes we have made. They have only distorted our world image. Libya does need to try very hard to wipe this out. It will help us that our image is only distorted, not blackened. We hope to overcome this distortion. Our image is distorted but not blackened so that we will say we renounce terrorism and repent. We are not terrorists, but we were distorted by terror so we need to try hard to remove what was deliberately stuck.

[Nafi'] Statements on the peace process coming from Libya, at times attributed to Your Excellency and at times to others, including, say, Jallud, could affect Libya's credibility and give others additional points at Libya's expense. How do you see this issue?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I like to understand it. Sharon is raising hell against peace, negotiations, Madrid, Security Council resolutions, and against halting the building of settlements. But he walks tall in America, Britain, and Europe. They allow him to propound his views and debate with Jews. Why not us?

We do not oppose peace. We are for it. But we have our view. Why is this permissible and that forbidden?

If this is the difference between one and the other, then I believe that Sharon is the greatest opponent of peace, UN resolutions, and legitimacy. We do not rule out the possibility that Sharon will one day be prime minister of Israel, will go to the United States, and will be received cordially.

[Nafi'] What exactly are Col. al-Qadhdhafi's ideas on how the Palestinians should obtain their rights in the light of world changes? If the Palestinians, whose cause it is, are willing to negotiate or pursue another course to obtain their rights, why is Libya opposed to it?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Since when has Libya opposed justice? We only advise the Palestinians about unity, to unite the stands of the left and right under the umbrella of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative. Why shouldn't they, as Palestinians, be under the PLO umbrella?

[Nafi'] World public opinion still finds it difficult to understand the names that exist in Libya, such as the People's Committee and the People's Congress. Why do you not address the world in terms it understands, such as the Libyan authority says this or the Libyan government says that?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Names are not the issue. Their meaning is. No government exists in Libya, and the world has not become accustomed to this. The French revolution introduced new names. It even changed the months and weeks. Genuine names exist in Libya. There is no government; it is formed by the entire Libyan people. Government legislates and executes. The People's Congresses legislate and the People's Committees execute. The jamahiriyah theory cancels the government.

[Nafi'] You and Reagan antagonized each other. Do you feel the same toward President Bush?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] By God, it is different. There was enmity between Reagan and me. Assessing and analyzing Bush and Reagan, President Husni Mubarak and King Hassan II, in particular, as well as Arab heads of state, have assured me that Bush is totally different from Reagan. I share this analysis. I have stated openly that I think Bush is a personality, educated, unselfish, and suffers no complex. Reagan suffers a personality complex because he was an actor, and especially because I insulted him about it. He was odd, had no education, and suffered theatrics (isti'rad). Bush has no complexes, is unselfish, and a shrewd statesman. I think that he is careful. He does nothing without first studying it and discovering the consequences. Reagan did not think about the consequences. One of the things he did to spite Libya was to celebrate victory.

As for Bush, he differs from his predecessors. If he succeeds in the peace process he has undertaken, we will meet with him one day, and I think that we can reach an understanding.

I also had a stance or doubt about previous U.S. secretaries of state. Despite our dispute, I think Baker is judicious. Despite our conflict, I am confident that a sensible and judicious person heads the U.S. State Department. He is our adversary now, but I recognize that he is one of the excellent secretaries of state, very suited to the position.

[Nafi'] The United States and Britain include among evidence a suitcase being taken out of Malta containing Maltese-made clothes. They said that the case could have contained the detonator: This they deduced in view of good Libyan-Maltese relations.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is unreasonable for the one who planned this operation from Malta to place evidence from Malta. This is the best indication for disguise and will make one think that the operation is not connected with Malta, in the Mediterranean. The investigator must conclude this directly. Any one will say that we cannot place things from the same place in which the operation is launched, and if this happens, we would find things that refer to the place. [sentence as published]

I have read a report that said that no suitcase was carried aboard the airliner in Malta. Malta affirmed that no unaccompanied suitcase was carried aboard the airliner there. The report then said something that no one had mentioned before: It totally ruled out an explosion. It said that it was wintry and stormy weather from early January [as published] to the end of the month. The report considered that bad weather was the cause of the crash of the airliner over Lockerbie. There are other things that exploded, or there was explosive material, or an explosion occurred on the ground, or perhaps an explosion occurred because it collided with an electrical object, or anything that made it explode. This is what made the incident look as if the airliner exploded. Reports came from Malta. The report will be referred to investigations. It says that the airliner exploded at 6,000 feet. It says that the airliner took off from Frankfurt, so how come it was at 6,000 feet over Lockerbie? This sounds as if the airliner was forced to land for another reason, possibly lightning or a storm. The ailiner got lost and contact with it was cut. It tried to find a place to land. It crashed into the village. Some time later, a British airliner had an accident in similar circumstances due to bad weather. It was flying in the same area and as a result of bad weather it developed a malfunction and was forced to land on a highway.

This incident is documented and says that U.S. flight 103 that crashed developed the same malfunction as the British airliner. The latter landed on a highway but the other tried to land and crashed into Lockerbie. This completely rules out bombing. Even without a bomb, a crash could occur for other reasons: A certain device or equipment may overheat, or things explode on the ground, that is, anything it collided with on the ground or an electrical object or plant, especially since it crashed over, among other things, a fuel plant.

[Nafi'] Or an oil refinery?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Something like that. It is the cause of the explosion that generated a state of suspicion among us.

Neutral judges and not Americans or English will demand this, because they say that they uncovered the evidence and that is all. The world does not accept the evidence they produced and we would like it brought to the United Nations. The United Nations is a group of countries. This is an issue for inspection by several countries, so the United Nations is better.

[Nafi'] When the airliner crashed in 1988, Libya was on the list of suspects. How would you interpret the change of mind at that time?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I can give no explanation. I recall that on the same night that the airliner crashed, they accused Libya and then the accusations were dropped. This leaves a question mark: When they accused Libya then it was not a result of investigation. They now maintain that four years [as published] of investigations brought them to accuse Libya. The legal answer is: The truth is never. It is not investigations that made you accuse Libya. You immediately accused Libya when the airliner first exploded. Why? This means that they had Libya on their mind. This is my analysis. They realized that the attack on Libya in 1986 was an unjust act of aggression and that they killed many innocent people and left dozens injured. One of the relatives of the victims might possibily bomb a U.S. airliner to avenge his father, mother, or son. This shows that they wronged Libya and since they did that they feel that the wronged party would seek revenge. Hence, from the beginning, they felt guilty toward Libya and when the airliner crashed they accused Libya. Why now? They know they wronged Libya for the Berlin night club incident in 1986 and that Libya had nothing to do with it. They know that the party that bombed the night club had no link to Libya. They know that they attacked us unjustly and so they were scared that the wronged party would seek revenge. When they first heard about the airliner incident they accused Libya.

Why was the Gulf of Sidrah attacked and why were scores of Libyans unfairly and wrongly killed? They said an explosion in Berlin was a Libyan act to avenge aggression, and they attacked us in 1986. They are spiteful. They always aggress Libya. We have no desire to antagonize a major state like America, and America cannot be proud of antagonizing a small state like Libya by attacking it.

It is the world's superpower and we are the smallest state. Is this bravery? Does it make Americans proud? No, it is shame for them to attack a small state like Libya, antagonize, or pick a fight with it. It would be pride for Libya to sustain a blow defending the truth.

America is a major state, but I believe it is not exclusively for Americans. Americans are us; they are all the world's peoples. Many Arabs have gone to America, and the Negroes, the Irish, the Asians, and the Japanese went there. Mankind made America; all peoples made it. Hence America made progress. The American power must serve mankind. This is America. The Americans are a conscious and cultured people. There is no one-race American nation against the Arab nation.

America belongs to mankind; the entire world. When it dedicates its resources it should do so to serve mankind. It should not build fleets, make bombs, get involved in a deal that is bound to destroy humanity, or interfere in people's and states' internal affairs. Hitler's mistake involved America. He changed the world's history. He involved America in world conflicts and in unlimited problems.

[Nafi'] What are the main features of the Libyan draft which you will soon present to the United Nations?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The first is that the entire world should close the terrorism file. We are against terrorism. The world should study its causes and work to solve the international political problems which prompt and encourage it. All weapons of intimidation which are a form of terrorism—chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons—must be destroyed. Making, possessing, or using them should be banned. These weapons include continental ballistic missiles, refueling planes, and transoceanic planes. The oceans must be cleaned of military units; armies must be withdrawn from others' lands; and offensive weapons in general must be destroyed, leaving only defensive weapons within regional waters and regional limits.

We have to stand up to anyone who commits terrorist acts. Wanted criminals the world over can be pardoned and returned to their countries. Their safe return must be guaranteed and they should not be tried. The guilty should be handed over to Interpol.

There are countries that talk about legitimacy and respect for international law while they protect guilty parties from Interpol. People wanted by Interpol should be handed over. The UN Security Council membership must be reviewed. The number of members can be increased. The "veto" right should be reviewed. We must reconsider it at the UN Security Council. The UN General Asembly's authority should be above the UN Security Council's, even if it means amending the UN Charter.

We have presented an international plan to eliminate fatal diseases, such as cancer, AIDS, polio, and malaria. We proposed a UN-affiliated international fund to finance these commitments and to which countries will contribute according to their abilities. Part of the fund will be used to eliminate diseases and another part will be for the environment; respect for environmental protection; the atmosphere; desertification; establishment of an irrigation system to utilize the waters of rivers, rain, floods, seas, and oceans to distribute them to the land; elimination of locusts; protection of oasis waters; desalination at the lowest possible cost; and utilization of solar power. These are in fact serious and important issues and there is a need for a serious stand to effect a change. Then we can form a main UN-affiliated international committee followed by committees all over the world at regional levels that will have full authority to implement this program, including inspection and search of factories that produce chemicals and nuclear weapons and germ warfare.

[Nafi'] There have been several rumors about bilateral relations between Egypt and Libya. Is there any truth in these rumors, the first of which says that the goods market you opened in Banghazi with President Mubarak has been closed?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What we opened with President Mubarak was the exhibition. Agreement was reached by all the exhibition participants and the Libyan side to establish joint industries, to discuss how to exchange goods and commodities, and how to build factories in Libya and factories in Egypt. A committee was formed from the Libyan and Egyptian sides to benefit from what was offered in the exhibition. But if the brothers in Egypt want it to be a permanent market, then I say welcome and there is no disgrace in reopening it again. Thus Egyptian goods will be in a specific market. All Libya is open to Egyptians in the same way that Egypt is open to Libyans. An Egyptian can open a shop anywhere and in any street. There are now coffee shops all along the coastal road that were opened by Egyptians. There are markets everywhere and the Egyptians can open markets or shops. There are no problems.

[Nafi'] I mentioned rumors.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I say clearly that the process is continuing. President Husni Mubarak and I are in full agreement and have complete understanding. We have learned the lessons of the past and how unity is achieved. This cannot be achieved through proclamations and talk alone but through the intertwining of interests between individuals and the two peoples so that they will become one people and this will be automatically followed by constitutional unity. From the political aspect, there are no more political differences. Many problems arise when there are political differences. But there are no political differences and I am confirming this to you.

[Nafi'] There are continuing difficulties regarding finding the necessary funding for the projects Libya and Egypt agreed upon, such as the project for the railway line between the two countries, whose implementation has not yet started. It is faltering as a result of lack of necessary funds.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The financial problems come as a result of the threats to boycott oil and the Libyan economy. Actually, we cannot deny that this has frightened the Libyans. Had it not been for these threats, the railway line project would have been signed. What takes place in Libya affects Egypt greatly. In other words, if no one buys Libyan oil, millions of Arabs will be affected, including the 3 million Arabs in Libya as well as the 1.5 million Egyptians in Libya. If they actually impose an economic boycott on Libya and Libyan oil for example, then the first people to be affected are the millions of Arabs in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, and Sudan. Therefore, applying sanctions on Libya is like punishing Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. Such economic punishment is not approved by the UN Charter; in addition I do not believe anyone would prefer military action, as was the case during Reagan's time.

[Nafi'] President Mubarak's stand is well-known, and he declared his rejection of any military action against Libya.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course we know that. We agree fully that President Mubarak is taking commendable pan-Arab action. There is understanding between us in all fields. Military action, God forbid, will not be a final solution. The military solution, or military option as they call it, will ruin the peace march, the negotiations that took place in Madrid and the Washington talks. Afterward, this will give extremists in the Arab world an opportunity to settle accounts with governments and regimes in the name of jihad to defend Libya.

However, I have hopes of overcoming this crisis legally. Apart from that, I am certain Libya is innocent.

Our interests are intertwined with Egypt's. There is no cause for concern whatsoever that they will stop as a result of funding, or the temporary crisis that is delaying the implementation process.

As for the right to reside here, own property, work, and move freely, we are done and finished with that completely. This means that an Egyptian can own a factory or a farm in Libya, open up a butcher's shop, and move around freely from one place to another just like his Libyan brother.

[Nafi'] There are reports that implementation of the project to settle Egyptians in Libya has not yet started.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is a strategic and highly important operation. All the potential is available and it will soon take its course toward implementation. The issue is one of time, no more.

Al-Qadhdhafi Dissuades Rallies Against 'Challenge'

LD1212113991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Although the brother leader has urged the people's masses to remain in their places and to go about their daily work as usual and has said that he is close to them when need be, these angry masses are determined to go to the brother leader of the revolution to express the readiness of the sons of the desert and cities and villages to defend the great al-Fatih revolution and its eternal humanist principles and to affirm that it stands in full readiness to confront challenge with challenge. Of these delegations, the brother leader of the revolution received a delegation from Abu-Salim, from the Asabi' tribes, from Janzur, and from Umm al Jarfan. It is worth noting that the brother leader appeals to the people's masses to stay in their places and to go about their daily work as usual and advises that he is close to them when need be.

Mauritania

Syrian Vice President Arrives, Meets President

JN1212175091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] At 1600 today Damascus time, Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya received [Syrian] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Wahib Fadil, presidential affairs minister; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Badr Mihriz, Syria's charge d'affaires in Mauritania, attended the meeting. For Mauritania, the meeting was attended by Colonel Ahmed Ould Miya, member of the Military Committee of National Salvation and minister of interior, post, and telecommunications; and Moctar Ould Haye, national education minister They discussed relations between brotherly Syria and Mauritania and looked into ways of fortifying them. They also exchanged views about issues of common interest and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Khaddam arrived in the Mauritanian capital this afternoon for a brief visit on his way back to Damascus, having led Syria's delegation to the sixth Islamic summit, which concluded in Dakar earlier today. [passage omitted]

Speaking to reporters at Nouakchott airport, Khaddam said he was extremely happy to be visiting Mauritania, which, as a key gateway for spreading Arab culture in Africa, is held in love and high regard by all Arabs. Naturally, Mr. Khaddam added, the visit is to talk with and exchange views with brothers here about issues of mutual concern, Arab issues, and to discuss ways of consolidating Syrian-Mauritanian ties. [passage omitted]

Discusses Peace Process

LD1312001391 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left Nouakchott this evening at the end of a visit to our country which lasted a few hours and during which he was received by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmad Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, to whom he delivered a message from his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Before leaving Nouakchott, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam replied to questions put to him by our colleague Mohamed Abdellahi Menine, who first asked him about the outcome of the talks he held with his excellency the president:

[Begin recording] [Khaddam] I would like to express my extreme happiness with having met his excellency the president, with whom I held talks on the situation in the Arab world and the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and also on bilateral relations. Naturally, I am extremely satisfied with this meeting. I conveyed to him a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. He then entrusted me with his reply.

On this occasion, I would like to convey my best and warmest congratulations to the fraternal Mauritanian people on the occasion of the [seventh] anniversary of the Corrective Movement, and we hope that the Mauritanian people will, under their leadership, move toward further development and prosperity.

[Menine] Do you think that this visit will help consolidate the relations between the two fraternal countries Syria and Mauritania?

[Khaddam] I am satisfied with the results of this visit and I believe that it constitutes a good step towards reinforcing the fraternal and warm relations between the two countries. We also endeavor [words indistinct] to improve relations to put them in their natural state because Nouakchott and Damascus agree on the importance of bolstering and reinforcing these relations in their mutual interest and in the interest of the joint Arab action.

[Menine] Mr. Vice President, what is your assessment of (?the negotiations) under way in Washington?

[Khaddam] You know [word indistinct] initiative. We have always said we want a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy. (?There was) an initiative to implement Resolution (?72), and we agreed. The first round began in Madrid and the second round is now taking place in Washington. We have a clear demand, namely withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and the second demand is to guarantee the permanent national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. When these two demands are met, we can say that the region is on the road to peace. If these two demands are not met, this means that the Israeli enemy is continuing its aggression and its obstinacy and its refusal to comply with international legitimacy.

[Menine] Israel has annexed the Golan Heights while it is seriously preparing the second round of negotiations hosted (?today) by Washington. [sentence as heard]

[Khaddam] The fate of the Golan Heights is not determined by the Israeli Knesset. The fate of the Golan is determined by our resoluteness to liberate it and to work with all our capacity to get the Israeli enemy out. Sooner or later we will get the Israeli enemy out because there is no way that we will relinquish one inch of Arab land or (?accept) the Palestinian people's deprivation of their national rights. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Morocco

Official Cites 'Big Stride' in Human Rights

LD1212152191 Rabat MAP in English 1325 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 12, (MAP)—Morocco made a big stride in matters of human rights following the setting up of the Human Rights Consultative Council on January 8, 1990 at the initiative of King Hassan II, said the council Secretary General Mohamed Miko. In a statement to the TV broadcast Tuesday evening on the occasion of the celebration of the International Human Rights Day, Miko said since the early days of independence Morocco proclaimed a series of laws all affirming human rights in Morocco. The inception of the Human Rights Consultative Council came to consolidate the state of law, he said adding that all the council's proposals submitted to the sovereign were approved. The proposals were related to custody detention, improvement of the situation in jails, the creation of administrative courts and others, he said noting that the House of Representatives (parliament) has unanimously adopted the bill on custody detention as well as the bill setting up the administrative courts.

Paper Criticizes Tindouf Camps Rights Violations

LD1112145791 Rabat MAP in English 1331 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 11, (MAP)—The rights of the Sahrawis sequestered in the Tindouf camps are systematically violated. They live in unhuman conditions, deprived of their most basic rights and of the freedom of movement and speech, wrote Moroccan daily "L'OPINION". In an editorial devoted to the celebration Tuesday of the 43rd anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Charter, the daily pointed out that the Sahrawi populations living in the Tindouf camps are prevented, by the force of arms, from expressing their will and are subject to a close military and police watch. These populations are denied the rights recognized by the universal human rights charter as explained by those who succeeded to escape the Tindouf hell, the daily of the Istiqlal Party (Nationalist/Opposition) affirmed. Pointing out that the sequestered people claim one sole thing, namely to return back home, the daily said the fact to prevent these people from expressing their will is an unbearable violation of human rights. The daily finally called on the international community to exact the release of the sequestered populations and see to the respect of their right to return to their country, Morocco.

Sudan

Equatoria Governor Condemns Attack on Juba

EA1312062091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Equatoria Governor Major General Saturnino Harikha has condemned the attack launched by the [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels on Juba town. He said the attack was directed against civilian targets and he denounced the barbaric practices carried out by the rebel movement. He called on the citizens of Equatoria to adhere to unity and togetherness. This came during his address to a gathering of Equatoria citizens in the state's coordination office in Khartoum.

Iran Finances Purchase of PRC Military Aircraft

NC1212122291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Dec 91 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Sudanese sources have confirmed that the Iranian Government has agreed to pay the first installment in a deal for six F-5 planes which the PRC Government has agreed to sell to Sudan.

The democratic government led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had signed a military protocol with the PRC Government to buy these planes. But the deal was not implemented because the National Islamic Front staged its coup in June 1989. As a condition to deliver the planes to the front's government, the PRC asked that the first installment be paid and a bank guarantee for the total cost be presented. Iran did this recently.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on U.S. Exercises, New Fighters

PM1312100291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 Dec 91 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Defense Minister Says: We Are Ready To Receive F-18's"]

[Text] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Joint maneuvers between units from the Kuwaiti Army and units from the U.S. Special Forces and Marines begin today within the framework of the exercises stipulated in the defense cooperation agreement between the two countries. The maneuvers, code-named Iris Gold, are the third since the defense agreement was signed. Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said in an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday that the good results achieved in previous exercises and the cooperation that emerged during them make us eager to extend such exercises and to include as many Kuwaiti Army personnel as possible in them so that everyone will benefit.

He said that he will visit the site of the joint exercises, which end next Thursday, to convey to the forces the greetings of his highness the country's amir and his loyal heir apparent.

With regard to equipping the Air Force with F-18's, the defense minister confirmed that the planes will arrive in Kuwait at the end of January once the air bases are ready to receive them. Major repairs are being carried out at the bases following the destruction caused by the brutal Iraqi aggression.

The defense minister said that Kuwait was putting the final touches to the clauses of the defense cooperation agreement with Britain which is expected to be signed at the beginning of next year.

Improving Ties With Iraq Supporters Rejected

LD1212214491 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0712 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti newspapers today shed light on the proceedings of the sixth Islamic Conference Organization summit in Dakar. One of them called for revitalizing the development exchanges with African Muslims, while the other rejected the attempts of some of those who supported the Iraqi regime to mend fences with Kuwait during the summit. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'I AL-AM referred to the attempts by some of those who encouraged the Iraqi regime to get involved in the occupation of Kuwait to approach the leaders of the Gulf countries and to declare their repentance after they discovered the reality of the regime they supported. In this context, it reviewed the Jordanian king's attempts to reform his stand in his address to the Dakar summit and the PLO chairman's attempts to approach the Gulf leaders and applaud their speeches. The newspaper said: "The wound remains deep and keeps bleeding; gentlemen, you are too late."

Saudi Arabia

Petroleum Minister Denies Production To Increase

LD1212132291 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 12, SPA—Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir has denied as baseless speculations that the Kingdom would increase its production in order to keep low oil prices for helping some countries overcome the economic crisis which has been due to political reasons. In a statement to SPA here on Wednesday, Nazir said the interest of the Kingdom and oil exporting countries in general lies in the balance of the market not in its inundation.

"The Kingdom is preserving this principle in its production policy and any other construction counter to this meaning is totally untrue," he said.

Nazir said reports about the production capacity were using words which were out of their place and reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment by its allocated quota and that it would not pump more oil in the markets.

Foreign Minister Notes GCC Meeting's Goals

LD2511184591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has emphasized the importance of the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit to be held in Kuwait next month, pointing out that at this summit the GCC's path will be defined. In a statement to the press today reported by KUNA, he emphasized the need for preparations for this summit to be successful.

His royal highness the foreign minister pointed out that previous GCC summits had emphasized the need for preparatory meetings to take sufficient time in studying matters in detail before submitting them to the leaders' meeting. His royal highness expressed his great optimism regarding the outcome of the preparatory meeting which will be held in Kuwait, and he expressed the hope that this meeting will meet the aspirations in enriching the agenda of the upcoming summit.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed hope too that the upcoming summit will provide new momentum for the march of the GCC, reaffirming that the upcoming summit will be extremely important in defining the future path of the GCC. As for the path of the signing states of the Damascus Declaration, his royal highness pointed out that matters are now proceeding in sure and good steps and that the upcoming meeting of the declaration's states will be held in Qatar.

United Arab Emirates

Libyan Envoy Delivers Message to President

JN0612145691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, has received a letter from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning developments in the Arab arena within the framework of constant consultations between the two leaders.

'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, delivered the letter when Shaykh Zayid received him here today.

Republic of Yemen

Source Denies Support for Sanctions Against Iraq

JN1212125891 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The Yemeni news agency SABA' has learned from a reliable source that there is no truth to the reports carried by certain Arab newspapers to the effect that during the Dakar Islamic summit Yemen voiced support for maintaining economic sanctions against (?fraternal Iraq).

The head of our country's delegation to the conference, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, clearly expressed Yemen's firm and principled position which emphasizes the need to lift the economic sanctions imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people.

President Calls for End to Blockade

JN1312070991 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman; and the delegation accompanying him returned to Sanaa last night after participating in the sixth Islamic summit held in Dakar from 9 to 11 December. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency SABA', brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said that his participation and that of the delegation accompanying him in the Dakar summit gave the Republic of Yemen the opportunity to contribute to ways of dealing with the Islamic nation's aspirations and concerns with a new outlook and within the framework of a strategy that guarantees its unity and gives it the chance to interact with the new facts and the resulting political and economic relaxation.

He noted our country's call for overcoming the repercussions of the Gulf crisis, lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, normalizing relations among the region's states, and achieving peace for its peoples. [passage omitted]

Official Expresses Nation's Support for Iraq

JN2511192891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Sanaa, 25 Nov (INA)—Sa'id Muhammad al-Hakimi, Council of Representatives speakership member in the Republic of Yemen, has emphasized Yemen's support for Iraq in its current crisis.

During a reception today of 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Janabi, secretary of the Iraqi National Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him, he hailed Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the unjust campaign against its national unity and development.

During the talks held here today, the two sides emphasized the need to lift the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, to unfreeze Iraq's assets, and to allow Iraq to exploit its resources without unjust conditions to secure food, medicine, and other basic needs to save Iraq's people and children from health hazards due to the shortage of food and medicine resulting from the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The two sides also emphasized the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and to bolster Arab solidarity in the interest of Arab and Islamic causes.

During the meeting, 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Janabi expressed Iraq's appreciation for Yemen's noble stands toward the unjust aggression against Iraq and the economic blockade imposed on it.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations in parliamentary fields and means of promoting them in a manner that would serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples and entrench fraternal relations between them.

The Iraqi delegation arrived in Sanaa earlier today on a visit of several days to Yemen.

Educational Institute 'Stormed' by UN Inspectors

JN1212143591 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 12, INA—Amid surprise and disapprobation of the people, the U.N inspection team on Tuesday stormed inviolability of an Iraqi educational institution under the pretext of inspecting document with relation to its work believed to be stored in this institution.

Director General of al-Karkh Education Directorate 'Amil Hazza' 'Ali said that we [were] surprised by presence of the inspection team in our building, who was accompanied by an Iraqi officer who asked us to offer all available facilities for the team.

He added that this visit which was to provoke and harass us confirmed rancor by the Western circles on the Iraqi educational institutions which are interested in building the Iraqi people.

He further said that the head of the inspection team insisted on opening all closed rooms including the examination one to check its contents and even the airconditioning room, the maintenance and the guards rooms.

Perez de Cuellar Criticized for Anti-Iraq Report

'Filthy Role' in 'Scheme' Viewed

JN1212135791 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 12, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily for today vehement criticized the wicked policies and filthy role played by U.N Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar in the conspiratorial scheme inside the United Nations against Iraq.

In its editorial, the paper said that while de Cuellar is to depart the United Nations early next year on the expiry of his term of office as the organization's secretary general, his recent report had ignored Iraq's peaceful stances and initiatives for ending fighting with Iran since first days of the military operations, and its response by all Security Council resolutions calling for the ceasefire and sitting at the negotiating table to settle all pending questions between the two states.

The paper made it clear that Mr de Cuellar wrote his report contrary to the truth with a spirit of latent rancor and in a style contradicts with his post as a peace activist.

It added that Mr de Cuellar had also played a filthy role in the American-Zionist design for instigating the public opinion inside the United Nations against Iraq and blessed the series of unjust resolutions by imposing the economic blockade on Iraq since August 1990 events and so far.

The paper also referreed to Mr de Cuellar's role in turning the United Nations into an institution satellite to the U.S State Department and the CIA.

Report Confirms 'Hostility Toward Iraq'

JN1312091091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has accused Javier Perez de Cuellar of dishonesty and deliberate prejudice in favor of Iran in the report he submitted to the United Nations to determine the party responsible for the start of the Iraq-Iran war.

In today's "Stand" column, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party says: The report confirmed Perez de Cuellar's hostility toward Iraq and exposed, once again, the fact that the man never had the necessary tact to assume the position of the world body's secretary general.

Perez de Cuellar admitted in his report that Iran infiltrated into Iraqi territory, but said these incursions did not justify Iraq's retaliatory offensive against Iran that led to the war.

AL-THAWRAH asks: Does Perez de Cuellar assume that Iraq should have accepted Iran's escalating aggression to achieve all its objectives without doing anything to deter it, even if this led to crossing its borders and occupying its cities. In this regard, the paper refers to statements made then by Iranian officials to the effect that they cannot stop their army if it advances to occupy Baghdad.

The paper regrets the method followed by the UN secretary general to prepare his report to determine the party responsible for the start of Iraq-Iran war. It says: The report is based on information supplied by the Iranians alone. Perez de Cuellar visited Tehran without visiting Iraq, which he should have visited in accordance with the basic principles of impartiality.

The paper also refers to the two countries' position on peace throughout the duration of the war. It says: Perez de Cuellar ignored Iraq's immediate acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 479 of 28 September 1980 which called for a cease-fire. He also deliberately ignored the fact that Iraq accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 20 July 1987 which Iran rejected then and only accepted one year later after it lost its power.

Commentary on Iran's Stance on UN Resolutions

NC1212130391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio in Persian 0645 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] O Iranian people, dear brothers, and sisters. For a long time the Iranian ruling regime has ridiculed the United Nations, labelling it one of World Arrogance' instruments, and for many years this regime has named UN-approved resolutions as Satan's instruments for humiliating nations which deserve to be opposed and rejected by the oppressed. It considered these resolutions aimed to protect the interests of the United Nations and other arrogant powers. But this is a fact of recent history, which is indisputable. [passage omitted]

We do not wish to discuss Iran's problems or express opinions on these since they stem from political viewpoints, concerning no one except Iran's decisionmakers and people. The burning question everyone is asking is: What motivated Iranian decisionmakers, suddenly and without go-ahead, to take such a contradictory political decision on UN resolutions; opposed to its previous stance, resolutions, and actions?

The scenario changed abruptly, unannounced and unexplained, and without the Iranians having any inkling why the ruling regime made such a hasty change. Iranian rulers who condemn UN-approved resolutions, terming them rigged-up and fabricated by world arrogance' organizations behind the scenes, have today submitted their guidelines for permanent UN representative Kamal Kharrazi to discuss exchanging POW's. His tactics are geared to convince the UN secretary general to decide, rightly or wrongly, in Iran's favor.

Foreign Minister Velayati has instructed Kharrazi to intensify his efforts. The UN secretary general followed up these talks on the pretext of the implementation of Resolution 598 and related issues, primarily releasing POW's.

Kharrazi assumed a provocative stance against Iraq in this meeting with the UN secretary general. Although it knows the United Nations is willing to accept every anti-Iraqi provocation—Velayati and all those at the helm of affairs in Iran know its aspects and reasons well—Iran complicated and deviated, instead of adopting the most wholesome ways and means to solve the problem of POW's with Iraq and to unravel this knot in the implementation of Resolution 598.

It is not known why Kharrazi's actions concerning Hashemi-Rafsanjani's guidance have been ambiguous. These efforts coincide with the Iranian regime's attempt to solve the hostages problem, demonstrated by the release of the last of the American hostages. [passage omitted]

This subliminal link emerged clearly during talks between Iranian officials and the prominent member of the committee assessing war losses in Iran. Close observation reveals that it is clearly connected to the beginning of the end for the Iranian regime, and the slide into the abyss of collusion with the apparatus of world arrogance' powers. Whether or not it knows, it is the same for Iran. As long as it continues to tread this policy, it will wallow in this quagmire, finally sliding into the abyss of collusion with world arrogance.

Husayn Kamil's Relatives Arrested; New Commanders

NC1212151491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Sharp differences are intensifying within the despotic 'Aflaqite family, particularly after the recent dismissal of criminal Husayn Kamil from the Defense Ministry. A detachment of Saddam's security forces on 3 December, acting upon orders by the so-called director of security in Salah-al-Din Governorate, arrested a group of the deposed minister's relatives in Tikrit. They were secretly taken to Baghdad on a bus with plate No. 10667 and imprisoned in the dungeons of the public security directorate in Baghdad. Their fate is not known.

In another development, the campaign of arrests and dismissals continues against those loyal to the dismissed 'Aflaqite defense minister. In this context, Staff Major General Muhammad 'Umar al- Hazza' al-Tikriti has been appointed as commander of the 5th Corps and military governor of Karkuk, Staff Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid al-Tikriti as commander of the 3d Corps, and another person from (Bidji) in Tikrit has been appointed commander of the 4th Corps.

Kurds Set Deadline for End to Economic Siege

JN1212152191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Dec 91

["Important" decision issued by the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front on 11 December; place not given]

[Text] The political leadership of the Kurdistan Front, in its meeting on Wednesday, 11 December 1991, and after brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani's return from Baghdad, decided to contact government officials regarding the return of official work, the recognition of the departments and officials in Kurdistan, and the lifting of the economic siege.

For its part, the Kurdistan Front affirms its commitment to the decisions of the Higher Coordination Committee and to ensuring security and calm in the region. Any sides from within or from without the Front will bear responsibility for their conduct, and the most severe measures will be take against them if they violate this decision.

The political leadership has also decided to discuss the second round of negotiations with the government, to make the necessary decisions regarding them, and to continue with them, provided the economic siege—on foodstuffs and fuel—in Kurdistan is lifted within a period of 7 to 10 days, and the departments and their employees return to work as before, in an official and normal manner.

[Signed] The Secretariat of the Kurdistan Front's political leadership, 11 December 1991.

Barzani Rules Out 'Secret Deals' With Baghdad

PM1212142891 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Barzani Tells AL-HAYAH: No Secret Deals With Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has said that he is "not an advocate of secret deals, and anything that we agree (with Baghdad) will be open." He emphasized that if obstacles in the negotiations and the failure to reach unanimity within the Kurdistan Front are resolved, "we will seek the people's opinion. If the people's authorization is obtained in support of the agreement, I believe that the agreement will then be accepted, so our people will not miss this opportunity." Speaking to AL-HAYAH by telephone from his headquarters in Iraqi Kurdistan, Barzani said that the Kurdish issue "has certain characteristics, and the Kurdish people's interests require peace and stability at this stage. These are our priorities. It is in the Iraqi Government's interests to find a complete solution to this problem. It is in the interests of the Iraqi and international parties to understand the extent of the Kurds' suffering. The roots of our tragedy are political. Autonomy will be achieved through direct negotiations with the central authorities in Baghdad, and we must resolve our problems ourselves."

In this connection he said that to engage in negotiations with the Iraqi Government "was a collective decision by the Front in order to arrive at a peaceful solution and a just agreement that fulfills the Kurdish people's aspirations to autonomy within a democratic Iraq in which Arab-Kurdish brotherhood is enhanced and national unity strengthened. All the parties, including Jalal Talabani and representatives of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, helped to finalize the draft agreement."

Barzani admitted that the draft agreement "is not complete or ideal, but it is acceptable in present circumstances." Unlike Talabani, who said in a previous statement to AL-HAYAH that the government agreed to only 15 percent of the Kurdish demands, Barzani believes that determining the autonomous region was the final obstacle, and that to overcome it could make the agreement acceptable. [passage omitted]

Saddam Hails Sons of 'Egypt of Arabism'

JN1212201691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpt] President Saddam Husayn has hailed the sons of Egypt of Arabism, and all those who rebelled against injustice and tyranny.

Commenting on a memorandum from Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and Revolution Command Council member, regarding the situation of the people staging a sit-in, the leader president said: My greetings to the sons of Egypt of Arabism, and to everybody who rebelled against injustice and tyranny, and sympathized with right and virtue. God is great, and may the lowly be defeated. God is great, and victory is for freemen, the real model of humanity, led by German national Silka Hottman, with my great appreciation for all. [passage omitted]

Al-Zubaydi on Improving Private Industry Sector

JN1212202291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that President Saddam Husayn's directives to guarantee citizens' security and welfare are given priority during the current stage.

Speaking during his meeting with the head and members of the Federation of Iraqi Industries, the prime minister stressed the importance of pooling all national efforts to achieve the highest degree of stability in the local market, and ensuring citizens' needs for commodities and basic items, since this is a national duty dictated by the nature of the current stage and the challenges Iraq is facing, primarily the unjust economic blockade.

The prime minister and the representatives of the private industrial sector discussed proposals and views on the industrial sector and ways of overcoming obstacles and difficulties obstructing the operation of this important sector of national production.

The prime minister emphasized readiness to provide all forms of support and facilities to Iraqi industrialists to ensure the progress of industry in order to achieve the highest rates of production. He also stressed the importance of setting the margin of profit in a manner that does not burden the public, so as to raise their standard of living.

Ramadan Meets Visiting Libyan Delegation

JN1212184491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and Revolution Command Council member, has asserted that the capabilities and energies of the Arab nation are far greater than what the enemies think, and that Arab masses and good forces that believe in their causes and cling to their existence will defeat the forces of evil, agentry, and treason.

Speaking at a meeting with Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al Bin-Fayid, doyen of Libyan agronomists, and his delegation, the vice president said that free Arabs will reap the fruit of the Mother of Battles in the future, and that the gains they will achieve will equal the great sacrifices made by the Iraqis for the sake of all Arabs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the Iraqi sons' rallying around their leader, President Saddam Husayn, who made good on his promises by fighting the assembly of infidels, agents, and slaves, will enable them to achieve more victories over their enemies and to challenge the unjust blockade through their efforts and dedication.

He added that the Iraqis have proven their superiority over their enemies through the reconstruction drive, which became a symbol of the Iraqis' proficiency and their challenge to aggressors, by defeating all their conspiracies, repulsing their aggression, and thwarting their failed deceptive methods.

For his part, the doyen of Libyan agronomists asserted that Arab destiny is one, and that the will of the Arab masses will not surrender, whatever methods of threats and aggression the Americans, their Zionist and Atlantic allies, and agents use.

He pointed out that the Iraqis, led by President Saddam Husayn, demonstrated a living example through their steadfastness and victory over the most unjust aggression.

He said what the Libyans saw in Iraq—the high morale and determination to pursue reconstruction and challenge the blockade—is an added victory for the sons of Iraq, an object of pride for all honest Arabs, and a practical lesson of the indomitable will of nations.

Group of 70 Returns From Saudi Detention Camp

JN1212151291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1253 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—The fourth group of returnees from the detention camps in Saudi territory, comprising 70 citizens, arrived in al-Muthanna Governorate today. The returnees are taking advantage of President Saddam Husayn's pardon of those who fled or defected.

The returnees shouted slogans hailing his excellency's noble pardon and asserting their absolute readiness to make sacrifices to safeguard their beloved homeland. They also denounced the inhuman treatment and immoral practices carried out by Saudi forces against them, which confirm the rancor harbored toward the Iraqi people.

The returnees also asserted that Saudi forces had used all methods of torture against them, including aiming guns, cannons, and mortars at them so as to terrorize them and not allow them to return home.

Human Rights Group Wants Saddam Out of Power

LD1212183991 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 11, IRNA—Iraq's Human Rights Organization has called for removal of Saddam Husayn from power, and the setting up of an interim government in Baghdad to prepare the grounds for free elections. The organization which held an exhibition of pictures and films on the crimes of Saddam Husayn and his Ba'athist regime, here Tuesday, also urged the United Nations to freeze the assests of the regime and spend them on food and medicine for the Iraqi people through a monitoring committee. "Saddam squanders the national wealth of Iraq as per his whims and desires, while the majority of Iraqi people are hard pressed for the primary needs of life, eking out a miserable existence," said the statement of the Iraqi Human Rights Organization. It also called for setting up temporary safe havens in the central and southern parts of Iraq in order to facilitate the return home of of Iraqi Arab refugees. "The final solution is, however, establishment of a provisional government for preparing the grounds for free elections," it added. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Arabs have taken to the dense marshlands of the south to escape slaughter at the hands of the ruling regime following the crushing of the people's uprising last march, which left hundreds of thousands of casualties and saw the desecration of the holy shrines by the republican guards. The Iraqi Human Rights Organization has so far held similar exhibitions on Saddam's crimes in 13 European capitals and plans to do the same in other European capitals in order to arouse world public awareness towards the pathetic situation in Iraq. Yesterday, the United Nations finally declared the Iraqi regime as the aggressor of the eight year war (1980-88) against Iran, which brought untold destruction and misery to the resources and people of the two Muslim countries.

Shamir—Peace Talks Help 'Foster Understanding'

TA1312114491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the corridor talks in Washington between the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian delegation are helping to foster understanding between the two parties. Shamir met with two U.S. congressmen: a Republican from Ohio and a Democrat from California. Ze'ev Kohen is here with more details:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the two congressmen that the Washington talks are a daily exercise in fostering optimism, despite the myriad of difficulties. We must continue to search for points of common ground on which to continue the talks without becoming unnecessarily agitated. The prime minister described the corridor meetings as helpful and said that they facilitate understanding between the two parties.

The two congressmen discussed Congress' special relationship with Israel. Congress considers Israel an overseas branch of U.S. democracy, and this is the basis for the unique relations. The two men detailed the domestic and economic problems in the United States.

The prime minister said that Israel's supreme challenge is the absorption of aliyah from the Soviet Union. Out of understanding for the United States' problems, Israel has not requested any grants but rather loan guarantees, which would not constitute a burden for the U.S. taxpayer. The United States is aware of Israel's excellent record of repaying debts. From time to time, Israel and the United States disagree on certain points; however, the prime minister reiterated Israel's total confidence in the United States.

Says Talks 'Real Start to Negotiations'

TA1312141991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called the week of Washington talks an important, positive, and useful week and said it was a real start to negotiations. He pointed out, however, that the Arabs still believe that they should be thanked for their very readiness to negotiate with us. In his view, the dispute over the corridor touches on the very issue of the problem and the Arabs' position is a flagrant violation of the agreement with them and with the United States.

The prime minister stressed that the Palestinian problem cannot be resolved without full involvement by Jordan in the process. Mr. Shamir praised the Israeli team to the Washington talks. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister was addressing the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv.

Defense Minister Arens on PLO Presence at Talks

TA1312072991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Text] [Lidar] Good morning, Defense Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Lidar] Perhaps we will begin with the political process. Here we are carefully conducting corridor diplomacy while avoiding any separate meetings with the Palestinian delegation, when suddenly we are told that the PLO has been brought in through the back door. According to Nabil Sha'th, the PLO is actually there.

[Arens] Look, we are at the stage of the negotiations in which the ground rules are being set. These rules must be kept. Now, attempts are undoubtedly under way to alter previous agreements, and it is very important to insist on the rules at this stage, because the negotiations will later be held according to these rules. There was quite a lot of criticism in Israel over our insistence that the process be decided through consultations with us. Today we are insisting that the negotiations be held with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that this delegation not be permitted to suddenly fission like an amoeba into two separate delegations. We were accused of being led by our emotions and not using our brains. This part is very important, however, because these are the rules according to which the process will proceed. I have no doubt that the Palestinians, or at least some of them, do not like the agreed upon principle that the PLO will not appear at the talks and that they will make an effort—perhaps they are making that effort now—to deviate from previous agreements and include the PLO in the process.

[Lidar] In other words, there is no feeling or information that the PLO is really in, that consultations and contacts are being held with that organization, or that the delegation actually represents the PLO?

[Arens] Look, we know what the PLO really wants. It wants 'Arafat and the PLO to be participating in the talks. We insisted that only representatives of the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip take part in the negotiations, and that is indeed what happened. I am not saying—and no one ever believed—that the Palestinians would not hold consultations and exert pressures. That, however, is not what the PLO wants. The PLO wants to be there; it does not want to be part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Lidar] Yes. There is another point on which we strongly insisted: the location of the talks and their duration. We said that the sessions in Washington would be very short, and here we are staying next week as well. Does this mean that there is cause for optimism, or is this perhaps a tactical move not to antagonize the Americans?

[Arens] You know, it is said that an optimist is a pessimist with historical perspective. I think that if we look at what is happening with a historical perspective and not with overly sentimental eyes, we will see that there is room for optimism, as far as pertains to the start of the process and the time necessary to inch slowly forward. Look, this is the first instance of talks of this kind in 43 years. Face-to-face meetings are being held. It is said that all beginnings are hard. In this case not only the beginning but also the continuation will be difficult, perhaps even more so. However, patience and determination are required, and we have both.

[Lidar] With the benefit of hindsight, would you now say that the decision to go to Washington was indeed correct, even though Israel initially opposed it. We are now hearing reports of dissension within the Palestinian camp and between them and their mentors. Perhaps it is good to be there?

[Arens] I have no doubt that it is good to be there. However, I also have no doubts that the struggle—if one can call it that—that we waged in order to eliminate the Arab perception that things can be dictated to us and that we would simply have to show up to receive instructions was important. I also think we achieved our aim. Your correspondent reported that the Palestinians are disappointed. They hoped that the United States would dictate to us and force Israel to give in. Today they and everyone else understand that this cannot be.

[Lidar] So, do you see things in Washington continuing to proceed in a satisfactory manner or will Israel continue to insist that the talks be moved back to our region?

[Arens] Well, you know that the words to insist have a negative connotation—as though we were insisting on a trivial matter. I think that it is very important to hold the talks in the region and not only because of the logistical aspect. Every member of the delegation to Washington knows that the meetings have a time limit. They must come back to receive instructions. Some of them also have to be in Israel because they have other jobs to do. This, however, is not the whole story. There is also the visual aspect of the talks being held in the Middle East—once here and then in Syria; in Israel and then in Jordan. This is also part of the peace process. We decided to start in Washington in order to launch the process. We feared that if we continued to insist on this important and correct condition, we would not succeed in kicking off the process. But now that the process has started, we will make an effort—which I hope will be fruitful—to move the negotiations to the region.

[Lidar] With your permission, sir, until we move the talks to the Middle East, perhaps we can talk about developments in Judaea and Samaria. We heard a report that the settlers have uprooted olive trees. They expressed dissatisfaction with the Army and its security policy. They do not feel safe. What can you tell them?

[Arens] First of all, I would like to say that the entire Israeli people should express their gratitude to the Israelis who reside in Judaea and Samaria. This is not a small number of people; there are over 100,000 settlers, including women and children. They are at the forefront of our struggle. Not only the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] but also 100,000 people, including women and children, are at the front, and this is not easy at all. They man the front on behalf of us all. Some of us sit securely in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa, while they are at the front. In recent months, local Palestinian gangs have been attempting to use firearms to harm not only soldiers, but also civilians. Some of the gangs belong to organizations that oppose the peace process and publicly declare that they are trying to derail the process by these actions. However, some squads belong to organizations such as Fatah, which purport to support the peace process but assert that it must be accompanied by terror attacks. The defense establishment, the IDF, and the security services are investing great efforts to overcome this danger, and we do not and will not hesitate to take action.

[Lidar] Do you justify them taking the law into their own hands?

[Arens] No, I certainly do not justify that. No one should take the law into his own hands, whether in Tel Aviv or in Samaria. I can understand their feelings and their anger. I would not rush to publicly condemn them, as I heard on the radio that several public figures have done. The authorities, however, told the settlers that they are forbidden to take the law into their own hands and that security is the responsibility of the defense establishment alone. This is also the way things will remain in the future.

[Lidar] The settlers, however, rushed to condemn the chief of staff. At least some of them have criticized him and said that they have no confidence in Baraq. Do you have confidence in the chief of staff?

[Arens] Those who do that are committing a very grave act which cannot be justified even under these circumstances. We have a terrific chief of staff. No one could do the job better than him. All the efforts being conducted in the field to guarantee the security of the residents and in the struggle against terror are being carried out at the chief of staff's instructions.

[Lidar] Mr. Defense Minister, the Peace Now demonstrators call the settlements an obstacle to peace and to the unity of Jerusalem. The mayor of Jerusalem was also not exactly enthusiastic about the settlement in Silwan and said that Jerusalem's security could have been guaranteed in a much better way and more cheaply. What is your opinion on this?

[Arens] First of all, disagreements are what characterize our lives here in Eretz Yisra'el. This is apparently the nature of our people. I dare you to find an issue that is not sharply disagreed upon. We must remember, however, that we are talking about the City of David or Silwan, which is within the sovereign borders of the State of Israel. This is actually an integral part of Jerusalem. One cannot prevent people from purchasing property and houses. From the judicial aspect, this is no different than purchasing a house anywhere else. If the purchase was legal, there is no reason to prevent someone from living there.

[Lidar] Thank you very much, Defense Minister Arens.

Levi on Peace Talks, Soviet Role, Terrorism

TA1212223091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Eli Nisan and Yehezqel Ya'aqobi on 12 December—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Nisan] Speaking this week before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Shamir said that there are U.S. promises to the other party that we do not know about. Could Israel be made to face faits accomplis in the future?

[Levi] No, I do not think so. We have overt agreements with the United States. One of the things I regarded as essential for the continuation of the process was making the agreements with the United States public. We must not keep those agreements secret when dealing with other parties. After all, they have to know and present their reservations ahead of time, and not reach a situation where they could claim that they did not know. All that was agreed upon with the United States was made public here and worldwide. It was quoted by the Arab media. That is why the United States is also saying this, as we all could hear today: Please, keep the agreement on a joint delegation. Do not do anything that could foil the whole process.

[Nisan] There were Palestinians who claimed the Americans promised them the delegation will split.

[Levi] It will split. We are also saying that. It will split after it first convenes as a single joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Later, after both parties—the Israelis and the joint delegation—agree on how to break up according to the various issues to be handled, it will split on that basis. There were some who wanted to put the cart before the horse. That will not work; that is a way to get stuck. The closer we adhere to the rules of the game, the easier it will be to make progress. [passage omitted]

[Ya'aqobi] Concerning U.S. involvement, will we eventually see, as we have seen in the past, that U.S. intervention in the process is inevitable? I would like to mention, for example, the incident where invitations were issued that caused anger here and made the Israeli delegation delay its departure. Can we eventually expect the U.S. to be an honest broker?

[Levi] Look, all those terms—honest broker and others—are often used. I believe in agreements. If they are kept, the road is easier, as is understanding and communication. We have agreed. Everything of the past has to be left behind. The aim was to get the sides to sit for direct negotiations. The fact is that the United States is today telling the parties: We brought you face to face; now work things out alone. If both parties jointly address the Americans in agreement, the Americans promised to give us their services. This is part of the agreements: If the parties ask for its intervention, the United States will give its assistance. Nevertheless, we must know one thing, which I believe is the main thing: One party must not believe that it can stall and avoid making progress; it must not believe that behind the curtain hides the mediator who will solve the problems. The problems of our region will be solved jointly by us.

[Nisan] You mean that by stalling, the Palestinians expect the United States to intervene?

[Levi] They would like that, but as you well know, the Americans are not doing so. They are telling us: Gentlemen, work out your own problems.

[Nisan] For how long?

[Levi] I hope that very soon the Palestinians will sober up. Israel is making a great effort. It presented substantive proposals to resolve the problem the Palestinians had raised, without changing the format of the joint delegation. I personally believe that this problem will be resolved soon. [passage omitted]

[Ya'aqobi] Do you believe that the Syrians could be flexible on an offer, for example, for an interim arrangement on the Golan Heights, or for demilitarization of regions in return for a declaration that the Golan is Syrian territory?

[Levi] I do not want to deal with any specific topic that is up for the parties to negotiate. It is clear, however, and it should be remembered: Israel faced threats from the Golan Heights. We need no proof of the Syrian aggression. All our civilian settlements there were under constant threat to their very existence. Syria must know that you do not make peace by thinking that this is the way to gain what you could not in war, and while maintaining a mind-set of war against us. We are well experienced. That is why we need a rapprochement; we need a recognition of the threat Israel feels from the Golan; we need confidence building measures as well. I will not go into the fine details.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, Israel believes in autonomy for the residents, not the territory. Was that idea well defined, and how much autonomy will that framework give the residents?

[Levi] That is agreed upon and is the very heart of the solution. No other solution will be acceptable to the Israeli Government. That was agreed upon with Palestinian consent. The process of autonomy will take a year to crystallize. We will start discussing the permanent arrangement after three years of autonomy. Such an offer was never made to the Palestinians before. We could have said that we have business with the Jordanians alone. They attacked and invaded us; we repelled them. The border between us was never a recognized borderline, but an armistice line. We won the war and broke the ring that threatened to strangle us. Now we are offering our hand in peace. We had territorial issues to discuss with the country that attacked us. Jordan chose to do it differently, leaving us with the population. We are offering this population autonomy. It has been agreed upon. Any attempt to play the wise guy and bypass the agreements will cause everything to collapse. That is why we call for reason at this time: We have reached an agreement that you accepted. Let us implement it. Let us waste no more time.

[Ya'aqobi] Will the autonomy talks pick up from they were stopped with the Egyptians in 1982, or will the Palestinians claim that they were not part of the deal then?

[Levi] I find it hard to believe they will, because they asked for documents to study. We also know that they invited Egyptian experts to study how it developed and where it stopped. This is an indication of their willingness to study the issue. Naturally, as long as they do not sit down speak with us, I will not know what they want.

[Nisan] If they ask for changes, will Israel make changes as well? After all, many changes have taken place since 1982.

[Levi] Any request will have to be discussed. I do not want to deal with hypothetical matters, but we will discuss everything. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] I would now like to go to a more removed issue: the multilateral talks that are supposed to take place in the USSR. First, I would like to ask you, in view of what is taking place in the USSR today, will talks be held there at all? Second, will the beginning of talks there follow progress in the bilateral talks held in Washington today?

[Levi] Look, the place really is not the main thing. If you recall, in the past Switzerland was mentioned. Later they spoke of The Hague. Eventually we met in Madrid. The main thing is to meet. There is a general agreement to hold multilateral meetings to promote the issues related to the development of the region. The meeting was slated for the 28th. The director general of our Foreign Ministry met with U.S. Department of State officials about that. If the talks do not take place in Moscow, and no one can really say what will happen, they will certainly take place in Europe. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, now that the USSR is crumbling, is it realistic to hold talks there, or even have it involved in the process? What is the Soviet weight in the region today?

[Levi] Despite everything, the Soviet Union is still a superpower. I will ask you: Would it be wise for Israel, or the other parties, to cut it out from the process now that it is weakening? What good will it do? Will it not cause harm?

[Ya'aqobi] At the beginning of the process it had influence on Arab countries such as Syria; today it has no influence whatsoever.

[Levi] It is a big country. It is still one of the two superpowers. We believe that it is better for the two to speak in agreement than not to speak at all. Removed from the process, the USSR might take extreme stands because it has no other choice. What good will that do? It is in Israel's interest to keep the USSR in the picture.

[Ya'aqobi] Sir, recently we have witnessed more use of firearms in the territories. Does this not harm the peace process? Should we not demand that violence and the intifadah end before we go on with the talks with the Palestinians?

[Levi] It is our responsibility to deal with that issue with an iron fist. Anarchy will not be tolerated. Jews will not be victims. Whoever raises a hand against Jews or Arabs, or shoots at them, will not go unpunished. We have several ways to deal with this. Those who do so possibly do not want the process, although it is hard for me to make the distinction. Those in charge of the issue make the distinctions, and I trust them. We must fight terrorism as if there were no peace process, and deal with the peace process while dealing with terrorism. The peace process must not tie our hands. Whoever sheds Jewish blood will be punished with the utmost severity. The peace process is not supposed to make us forget our responsibility to the security of our citizens.

[Nisan] Our relations with China have recently warmed up slightly. Do you believe this could lead to ties between the two countries in the near future?

[Levi] That is our aim. A lot of work and coordination has been done on that. I held two meetings with the Chinese foreign minister and members of his office. Israeli delegations and representatives went there.

[Nisan] When will you go there?

[Levi] All in good time. That is being taken care of.

[Nisan] There were reports that it could happen this month.

[Levi] I admit to reports when they are true. I always let you know when I go abroad. We need patience. The reports you heard concerned my leg, which underwent some medical treatment. It was never my intention to walk to China. The ties are getting tighter. We exchange delegations, and we are really marching toward the establishment of diplomatic ties.

[Nisan] We would also like to address the painful issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's. You said that in your meeting with Perez de Cuellar he promised to work for them. He is about to end his term in a few days. Are you optimistic that something will move?

[Levi] In my discussions with the UN secretary general, he demanded that assistance be given to him to work for the release of hostages, POW's, and MIA's. No segregation or selection was made. He took steps. Never before did we have such an international figure willing to deal with this. We have done our share. He said that he will continue. We hope he will succeed. Had we acted differently, saying that we do not need his services or that we refuse to assist him, we would have never forgiven ourselves. We have not lost hope that we will reach the destination, which from our point of view is a must. We will never lose hope or be discouraged.

[Ya'aqobi] There is a feeling that the other side did not respond in kind to all the gestures we made.

[Levi] We are dealing here with elements that, as far as credibility or conduct is concerned, are different from what we are familiar with. The UN secretary general is working on behalf of the United Nations. I would suggest that we not lose hope, and continue working with faith that he will indeed carry out his task. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Sees Silwan Affecting Peace Talks

TA1212165791 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of Palestinian Guidance Committee, by Dan Margalit in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good evening, Mr. al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

[Margalit] You said a few hours ago that there is fear of a disaster because Jews entered their homes in Silwan. Why a disaster? Why cannot Jews and Arabs live together in Silwan as in other places in Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Look, this is not just a legal issue or a question of coexistence. This is a political issue. The question is: If the Jews have a right to return to the houses they claim to own, why are we not allowed to return to our houses in West Jerusalem? If you let all the Arabs and Palestinians return to their homes in West Jerusalem and other places—then welcome. It is, however, impossible to honor the rights of only one side.

[Margalit] You, however, are not making two separate demands; you are not saying: Either I want to return to West Jerusalem, or I do not want them to come to East Jerusalem. You are saying both: I do not want them in Silwan and I want to return to the old Arab houses in West Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] No. If we resolve the problem and reach peace, both sides will have a right to reside where they choose. I say: If we are allowed to return to our houses, by all means, let the Jews return to houses they can prove they own.

[Margalit] I understand your argument. Nevertheless, why say that a disaster is imminent if Jews live in the houses they purchased in Silwan?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know if they purchased them or not. Nevertheless, we are at the beginning of peace negotiations. We do not want anything to sabotage that process. We say that the situation in East Jerusalem is very serious and that therefore we want to discuss it in the second stage. It will be placed on the negotiating table then, providing there are no changes made on the site itself before we reach the second stage. If, however, facts begin to change in East Jerusalem now, what will be left for us to discuss in the second stage?

[Margalit] With that in mind, why did you ask your colleagues in the delegation in Washington to raise the issue of Jerusalem right away and put it on the agenda? After all, is that not almost certain to blow up the talks?

[Al-Husayni] No, unless the Israelis decide to open the issue of Jerusalem here, in which case we will open the issue on the negotiating table. If they stop these things here in Jerusalem, we will be able to wait for the second stage.

[Margalit] Do you mean that had the Jewish settlers not entered the Silwan homes, you would not have asked for it?

[Al-Husayni] I am not speaking only of Silwan; I am speaking of other places in Jerusalem as well.

[Margalit] Would you like to raise this issue now because there are hundreds of Jews in Ramot Eshkol and the French Hill, which cannot be changed?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, there are things that happened several months or years ago. We, however, are speaking of things from today on. If there are no new settlements, if there is no land expropriation, then we will not raise this issue now, but in the second stage. If you raise it here, we will raise it there.

[Margalit] Prime Minister Shamir said in the Knesset that he is worried by certain promises the Americans gave the Palestinians concerning Jerusalem. What were you promised by the Americans that has not yet been made public?

[Al-Husayni] Look, if it has not been made public so far, I will not do so here and now. I will find the right time and place for that.

[Margalit] You were given such promises that have not been made public, were you not?

[Al-Husayni] We have the letter of assurances the Americans gave us. I do not want to detail what it includes.

[Margalit] Does it include material not yet made public?

[Al-Husayni] Certainly.

[Margalit] Do you not believe it causes some damage, or in the words of the State Department spokesperson, that it is a little childish to want to break up the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation after having, in fact, agreed to come in a joint delegation to the talks?

[Al-Husayni] We came as two delegation with some common work to do. We are two delegations. That is the way it was in Madrid. That is how it was originally referred to by the Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians. The Israelis said that this is a two-track move: one with the Palestinians, the other with the Arabs. When we talk to the Jordanians it is the Arab track, and when we want to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian issue, we will address the Palestinian delegation.

[Margalit] Mr. al-Husayni, thank you.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you. Shalom.

Levi on Trips to New York, Africa; on Silwan

TA1312083691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, Foreign Minister Levi.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Friedman] Perhaps we should begin with your expected trip to New York next week. You already had one trip this week to the PRC that never took place. Is the trip to New York for real?

[Levi, laughing] Well, I only hope that what I would call these competitions will stop. A report is published without first being verified. Then come all the various explanations, and I am embarrassed. When I am scheduled to take a trip, the cabinet must authorize it. When there are concrete plans, I announce them. There is no mystery about such things.

[Friedman] So are you going to New York or not?

[Levi] Certainly. I was referring to China. This is a battle which we have waged for a long time and coordinated with the United States over the past year. Things reached a climax with Bush's appearance at the United Nations in which he demanded the repeal of the sorry resolution equating Zionism with racism. Now, thanks to intensive international diplomatic efforts, we can finally nullify this resolution. This is a very important event as far as Israel is concerned, and the government has authorized my departure.

[Dan] So you are going to New York. May you perhaps also visit Washington, Mr. Levi?

[Levi] This is not planned, but I cannot rule it out.

[Dan] Under what circumstances would you visit Washington?

[Levi] First of all, if I can find the time, because I must leave immediately for another country in order to establish diplomatic relations....

[Friedman, interrupting] Nigeria?

[Levi] In Africa. [laughter] This makes the logistics a bit difficult. If it proves possible, however, I will be glad to meet the guys and receive their impressions, even though the reports come in twice a day and we constantly hold consultations. We shall see. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Mr. Levi, in conclusion. I would like to ask you about one external development which was not taken into account and which may now cast a shadow on the entire negotiations process. I am referring to the Silwan affair. We all know what happened there, and now the issue of Jerusalem is on the agenda between us and the Palestinians. This was not the original intention. How do you regard this affair?

[Levi] Look, first of all, there is one basic rule. This government does not have to resort to demonstrations in order to assert its right and its recognition of its right to Jerusalem or to Eretz Yisra'el. Sometimes, demonstrative actions should not be carried out at a sensitive time, when we are in the midst of what could be described as an international struggle, with the entire world probing Israel's intentions. Nevertheless, one must not mix different issues together. Prudent behavior does not constitute the relinquishing of rights, not even tacitly. It is inconceivable that a Jew will not have the right to purchase property in Jerusalem. Such an assertion would simply infuriate any Jew. We must therefore proceed very carefully on this matter. We must not give up our rights, and we must retain them at any cost. On the other hand, the government should not be confronted with developments that other parties are simply waiting for in order to portray Israel as a country seeking to divest others of their property. Both Jewish and Arab citizens have access to the Israeli courts and legal system.

Foreign Ministry—New UN Resolution 'Irrelevant'

TA1212145191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Israel condemns last night's UN General Assembly resolution, which calls for convening an international peace conference for the Middle East, under the auspices of the five superpowers, that would grant the PLO an equal status. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that passing this resolution at a time when direct peace talks are being conducted in Washington makes it irrelevant, and that it contradicts the direction of Middle East history.

Court Issues Interim Order on Silwan Settlement

TA1312132591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court issued an interim injunction on the titles to two houses in Silwan, according to which the police will take action to evacuate Bet Hatzofe and to lock it up. On the other hand, the court permitted leaving 10 settlers in Bet Hatira to look after the place but banned them from making any change in the house or from doing any renovation work on it. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the order will remain in force until the court issues a final decision in three days.

Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner visited the village today and told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that the police would soon be studying the action of the civilians guarding the entrances to the settlers' houses. He noted that the police is sticking to its position that they only keep order in Silwan.

Ne'eman on Silwan, Space Cooperation With USSR

TA1212172491 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpts] [Margalit] The science and technology minister, Professor Yuval Ne'eman, has just returned from the USSR. Good evening, sir.

[Ne'eman] Good evening.

[Margalit] Was it a provocative act on the part of those who want the peace negotiations—I am not referring to you—to allow the settlers to take possession of the Silwan houses at this time?

[Ne'eman] From the angle of a man calling them settlers....[changes thought] There are 130,000 settlers in Jerusalem. Anyone living beyond the Mandelbaum checkpoint [pre-1967 passage from East to West Jerusalem], which was liberated in 1967, is in fact an obstacle to the peace that Faysal al-Husayni—and, apparently, the Americans—would like to see.

[Margalit] Had you been a supporter of Prime Minister Shamir's stand and had you believed that the delegation should remain in the United States, would you have thought that now was the right time to send settlers into Shiloah?

[Ne'eman] Permit me not to engage in hypotheses. As far as I am concerned—and I think this goes for the prime minister too—it is inconceivable that Jews should be banned from any part of Jerusalem. If the title to these houses has been proven—and the attorney general has presumably checked the issue—there should be no doubt about the Jews' right to take possession of their houses. It is the job of the police to protect their right. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Prof. Ne'eman, what is the reported joint Israeli-Russian space project?

[Ne'eman] We have two space projects. In one of them, the more extensive, we are a partner in a launch to Mars in about two and a half years. We are not a major partner; approximately one percent of the spaceship's total facilities—mainly in the field of computers—will have been manufactured by Israel at the Israel Space Agency's facilities and executed by the Israel Institute of Technology. The project's theme is a discovery voyage to Mars.

[Margalit] I assume there will be an Israeli flag there.

[Ne'eman] Definitely. In 1994 we will be able to ensure Israeli presence there, and we will take pride in it, too. There is another project, which is primarily European, but which has something to do with the USSR, too. In the European project, we are cooperating mainly with Denmark—although the whole matter has not been finalized as yet. In that project, however, we may have a bigger share—as the Danes' primary partner.

[Margalit] They have no bread, but they will fly to space. Thank you very much, Prof. Ne'eman.

Equipment To Be Installed in USSR Rocket

TA1212095691 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Dec 91 p 8

[Report by Moscow-based correspondent Dmitriy Prokofyev and Merav Arlozorov]

[Excerpts] Israeli equipment will be installed in a Soviet rocket that will be launched to Mars from the Baikonur launching site in Kazakhstan. This was learned from Soviet sources, following a meeting between Minister Yuval Ne'eman and leading members of the USSR Academy of Sciences. [passage omitted]

In addition to cooperation with Israel on the Mars-bound rocket project, it was decided to integrate Israel into the Soviet-U.S. organization that will deal with global environmental problems, such as the heating of the earth.

Our correspondent Merav Arlozorov adds: Sources in the Science and Energy Ministry noted that Minister Ne'eman has been holding talks with the Russians about the incorporation of Israeli technology in Russian spaceships but that, as far as is known, no agreement has yet been reached on a specific spaceship or space mission.

Moda'i on Interest Rates, U.S. Loan Guarantees

TA1212182491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said this evening that bank interest in Israel has to go down and that he is sure it will resume its previous level within a few weeks. As for the U.S. economic aid, Moda'i said that we cannot free ourselves from it yet, nor from the need for the guarantees. The finance minister this evening addressed the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce, and our correspondent Ron Nesi'el heard him.

[Begin recording] [Nesi'el] [passage omitted] Moda'i's remarks this evening could have been understood as meaning that he has almost lost all hope of receiving the U.S. guarantees. He hurried to correct that impression.

[Moda'i] I believe that we will eventually receive the guarantees without political linkage [last word in English]. There may be economic linkages [last word in English], but I welcome those because, if the guarantees are accompanied with conditions for reforms in the Israeli economy, I also believe that reforms are needed.

We will make the reforms without them being conditional. That is why such conditions will not bother me at all. [passage omitted] [end recording]

EFTA Delegation Arrives for Talks on Customs

TA1312113491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Negotiations opened in Jerusalem this morning between an Israeli team and a delegation representing the European Free Trade Association [EFTA]. The talks are aimed at establishing a free trade agreement by the start of 1992. Steve Linde reports:

The 40-member delegation from EFTA arrived in Israel last night and began a third round of talks with the Israeli delegation at a Jerusalem hotel this morning. A free trade agreement will remove customs duties on trade between Israel and members of EFTA, including Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Austria, and Switzerland. The teams also hope to reach accords on trade and cooperation in the areas of agriculture, industry, science and the environment. [passage omitted]

Labor Decides on Cooperation With MAPAM

TA1212204291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau tonight voted down a proposal calling for cooperation with left-wing parties and extraparliamentary movements in the party's struggle against the Likud. The bureau decided to forge a dialogue with MAPAM [United Workers Party] and the National Kibbutzim Movement [affiliated with MAPAM] only.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Labor Secretary General Mikha Harish attacked CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] and Shinuy which, he claimed, besmirched and slandered Labor in Israel and abroad.

Minister: No Agreement on Israeli Direct Dialing

JN1112115891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 91 p 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan said Tuesday it had not agreed to an Israeli move to open direct telephone lines to the Kingdom and said it had given instructions to international communication organisations not to channel any calls originating in Israel to Jordan and vice-versa.

"This is international piracy and violation of all international laws and regulations," said Communications Minister Jamal al-Sarayirah.

Noting that establishing direct dialling system between two countries needed the agreement of both parties, the minister told the Jordan Times that "we have not agreed to any such arrangement."

"It is an Israeli move to harass us," he said.

"We have instructed the concerned international communication organisations not to clear any telephone calls originating in Israel to Jordan or vice-versa," he added.

Technical experts said there was no way any country-to-country call could be routed to its destination without technical arrangements and the explicit permission of the targeted country and therefore the Israeli move was unilateral.

An Israeli announcement, made late Sunday, said the Israeli ministry of communications would make available direct dialling systems to 11 Arab countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

There was no immediate Israeli explanation to why Syria was pointedly missing from the list. Syria is among the Arab parties engaged in bilateral peace negotiations with Israel under the sponsorship of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The announcement, obviously timed to coincide with the resumption of the bilateral peace talks in Washington Tuesday, said the arrangement would be available as of Dec. 17.

"I have no doubt that this step will demonstrate that Israel is ready to and prepared for peace;" was the telling statement made by a spokesman for the Israeli ministry.

The Israeli move appeared to add credence to arguments that the Jewish state was primarily interested in normalising relations with the Arab states without necessarily reaching an equitable solution to the core of the conflict, the Palestinian problem.

"Obviously Israel is hoping to stage a public-relations stunt by making such an unilateral move without any significant progress in the peace talks," said a senior official in Amman.

The existing technical state-of-war between Israel and the Arab countries except Egypt preempts any normalisation of relations prior to arriving at a "comprehensive solution which addresses all dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict," added the official.

One of the Israeli arguments presented through the media is that direct dialling would be highly beneficial to the Palestinians living in the occupied territories as well as Israeli Arabs who may have family or business links with Arab countries.

A private company, Solan Communications, is handling indirect calls to and from Arab countries and Israel as well as the occupied territories. The calls are channelled through the company's London computers.

Solan's owner, Ya'aqov Solan, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that he did not mind his service "competed in the interest of peace," but that the unilateral Israeli move violates international communication agreements.

House Criticizes ICO Resolution on Sanctions

JN1212192391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The House of Representatives issued a statement today on the resolution adopted by the Islamic summit in Dakar regarding the continuation of the siege of the fraternal people of Iraq.

The statement called for halting this resolution, which it described as unjust and of being detached from all norms and values laid down by the divine and earthly principles, which preserve the human being in terms of value, dignity, civilization, and faith.

The House of Representatives called for assuming the role that is necessitated by the true religion, through reconciliation which God Almighty has ordained among Muslims.

The House sent copies of the statement to the General Secretariat of the Arab Parliamentary Union and the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization. [ICO]

Abu-Jabir Returns From Dakar, Comments on Summit

JN1212211391 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir returned home tonight after attending the sixth Islamic Conference Organization summit in Dakar.

Dr. Abu-Jabir told Jordan Television's Kassab Samawi the summit discussed several important issues, particularly the peace process.

[Begin Abu-Jabir recording] In evaluating the Islamic conference, one has to look at the positive sides, which include an evaluation by the leaders of the Muslim ummah [nation] of the various aspects of their life, beginning with the political aspects, what the leaders considered most important problems facing the Islamic world, principally the Palestinian question, and took the proper decisions in this regard.

Along with the Palestinian Arab-Israeli conflict, there was determination by the Islamic ummah to back the Jordanian and the Palestinian and the Arab, in fact, peace efforts that were started in Madrid on the basis of [UN Resolutions] 242, 338, and the principle of international legitimacy, the exchange of land for peace.

There were also a number of other decisions that considered problems facing the Islamic ummah, beginning with the problems of Islamic minorities in non-Islamic countries like the problem of the Muslims in Mindanao, in the Philippines, passing through the problems of Jammu and Kashmir, and then through a consideration of the Cyprus problems.

On the economic level, a number of decisions were taken in which some consideration must have been given to the debt problem facing the nations of the Islamic ummah, especially those of the medium income and those countries of the low income group.

So all in all, I think the meeting was a success in these fields. [end recording]

Arabs Must Learn 'How To Negotiate'

JN0712101591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Dec 91 p 32

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "On Washington Talks"]

[Text] The Arab negotiator went to Washington with two things on his mind. First, that the Israelis would not dare to reject the date set by the United States and that they would be there on 4 December. When they did not show up, the Arab negotiator no longer knew what he wanted to do or what to say. Consequently, we witnessed a poor media performance by the Arab negotiators.

Second, the Arab, and particularly the Palestinian, negotiator thought that Washington would be like Madrid—an open theater in the heart of the Zionist zone of influence. We were surprised to see the U.S. Administration closing one of the gates to that theater. The Zionist media put the release of Terry Anderson at the top of the news covered by the U.S. press, radio, and television. This was followed by reports on Sununu's resignation, then news on the drop in the dollar's rate of exchange in Europe. No one remembered that 4 December was the date for the second chapter in the peace process.

The Israeli player has dealt a major blow to the prestige of the United States. The fact remains, however, that Shamir has dealt an even bigger blow to the American Jewish community and its leaders, to the Israeli Labor Party, and to all those who had opposed his policy and feared a confrontation with the United States. There was no confrontation. The United States has succumbed without even daring to "show concern" or to "feel disappointed." Nor were there any other expressions of the sort we hear and see everyday at the White House and State Department press briefings. Strangely enough, we have heard about the concern, irritation, and disappointment of the United States from the Arab negotiator, not from any American.

The blow which Yitzhaq Shamir has dealt to the prestige of the United States may be very helpful to the Arab negotiator. He may lose a little of the fear which overwhelms him whenever the American master glances at him. He may be able to stand on his feet and raise his head.

There is no meaning to the Arab negotiator's presence in Washington if he does not know how to conduct his political battle. He does not negotiate with "Israel," but with the United States. He should learn from "Israel" how to negotiate.

House Reply to Speech From Throne

JN0712161391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1217 GMT 7 Dec 91

[House of Representative's reply to King Husayn's 1 December speech from the throne; read by House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat in Raghadan Palace in Amman on 7 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God Almighty, and peace and prayers be upon his messenger Muhammad and all his family and companions. "Our Lord", they say, "let not our hearts deviate now after thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from thine own presence; for thou art the grantor of bounties without measure." [Koranic verse]

Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, may God protect him and guide him along the path of virtue. Peace be upon you. The House of Representatives, which was elected as freely and fairly as you wished, and which represents the good people of Jordan of all groups and schools of thought, extends thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for your kind opening of its third session and for the royal speech from the throne, which, in accordance with the Constitution, will, during this term, be the statement of His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's government.

The House of Representatives, which takes pride in Your Majesty as a leader faithful to his people and a lover of his country and nation, presents to you its reply to the speech from the throne, coupled with sentiments of allegiance and loyalty, praying to God Almighty to protect you, preserve you as a source of pride to this country, and help you bear the historic responsibility, which you have never hesitated to bear as a brave man and a determined leader.

Along with Your Majesty, we believe that true democracy means freedom of opinion, tolerance, integrity, abidance by the Constitution, and guidance by the National Charter. At the same time, it means a true sense of responsibility, and responsible conduct by any authority, official or individual, so that the texture of the society can fit properly within a framework of justice and equality; so that citizens can enjoy security, safety, and material and psychological stability, and be assured of their rights and full freedoms; and so that the authority and the officials can carry out their duties and protect the interests of the homeland with relentless determination and firm resolve, while assured that they will find constructive cooperation from all, and with all, in fearing God and doing good for individuals and society.

From this premise, the House of Representatives stresses to Your Majesty that it will stand by the pledge, exercising its constitutional jurisdiction knowledgeably, responsibly, and objectively in a manner that guarantees cooperation and balance among the constitutional authorities without any bypassing, highhandedness, or claim by any of them that it is the sole protector of the public interest. All authorities are in the same position, working to serve the homeland and the citizens. "Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor." [Koranic verse]

The House of Representative pledges to Your Majesty to continue to shoulder its primary responsibility—legislation—without any slackening, to accomplish the draft laws on its table, especially the law of political parties and the law of press and publication—which the House has demanded since its first session with a view to firming up democracy and shura in this good homeland, so that it may serve as an example in our contemporary world. Our legislation needs to be modernized and developed, and we will cooperate with the executive authority to accomplish this so that our legislation can match the development our country has experienced in this stage.

Your Majesty: Our Armed Forces, the shield of the homeland and the protectors of the nation, are an object of our pride and appreciation. We greatly appreciate Your Majesty's care for the Armed Forces, and we call on the government to continue to take care of the Armed Forces in terms of their organization, training, and arming. We also call on the government to take care of Armed Forces' personnel so as to ensure for them a free, honorable living, as they are the protectors of the nation's bastions in the Jordan of steadfastness and mobilization. We are keeping the Armed Forces in store for the day when rights shall be restored and territory liberated.

As for security agencies, they are the vigilant eye of the homeland that preserves security and keeps its pledge. We call on the government, therefore, to support these agencies to ensure good performance of their duties and tasks as part of protecting the domestic front from infiltration and fragmentation, taking care of citizens, and safeguarding their rights and liberties and honor in accordance with the provisions of the law and the dictates of justice, bearing in mind God's verse: "It is those who believe and confuse not their beliefs with wrong, that are truly in security, for they are on right guidance." [Koranic verse]

Launching aggression against the homeland's security and destabilizing its domestic front is a crime that touches each and every citizen—one that has to be confronted with all might and force. Besides, encroachment on an individual's rights and liberties is an encroachment on all citizens that must be confronted with firmness and fairness.

Your Majesty: We are looking forward to comprehensive administrative reforms that restore the bright image to our Jordanian administration. The administrative reforms we seek are not confined to shakeups and transfers; they extend to restructuring the state's institutions, designating authority, specifying responsibility, clarifying and simplifying procedures, and rectifying practices. The administration is the method of development and progress, as well as the mechanism to exercise rights and perform duties.

We are looking forward to implementing administrative decentralization according to methods that suit our society and in molds that can be comprehended easily. We think, moreover, that developing local administration is the best method to extend development all over the kingdom, and deepen democratic practice through the contribution of the residents of an administrative unit toward running their local affairs through elected councils on all levels. By doing so, the people would agree collectively on matters of concern to them. "Those who hearken to their Lord, and establish regular prayer; who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation." [Koranic verses]

Every administrative unit, moreover, should have a budget for its local services to be spent by the unit's council according to the development plan approved by the government's policy.

The economic conditions Jordan is experiencing, which have aggravated in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the blockade Jordan had suffered, in addition to the services needed to face the requirements of the third exodus, all require a comprehensive national economic program. This program should be drawn up by all specialized agencies. It should also be discussed broadly, and then referred to Parliament to discuss and endorse it, so that we can all effectively and jointly address all problems we are facing; primarily, poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, and the deficit in the budget.

Your Majesty: Every impartial observer testifies to Jordan's historical pan-Arab role, which is being promoted day after day thanks to Your Majesty's assiduous efforts to close ranks, restore solidarity, and establish an Arab order based on pan-Arab interests, mutual respect, joint understanding, and ironing out differences in the framework of Arab institutions. This role is best manifested in Jordan's firm commitment to the causes of its nation and its sincere, honest positions on the nation's rights. If recent circumstances have caused some misunderstanding of our stands, we are certain that our Arab brothers will understand our pan-Arab positions and appreciate our Arab commitments, once the weather of crisis clears up.

Arab brotherhood, pan-Arab interests, and common goals should hold us together in the interest of our rights, land, and resources. We would like to see Jordan pursue contacts with its Arab brethren on all fronts in a serious attempt to restore Arab solidarity and to open wider horizons for cooperation and cohesion, given that all of us now face the disintegration of the old world order and attempts to forge a new uni-polar world order led by the United States, in which the weak and divided can only be subordinate to others without any say of their own. We would like to see due attention given to our ties with brotherly neighboring Arab states, since we have shared interests, similar goals, and common concerns, and our enemies are lying in wait for all of us. We have no choice but to close ranks and cooperate for the good of all of us. "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided." [Koranic verse]

We see cooperation with Islamic and friendly and developing nations as an unavoidable necessity if we are to have an influential role in a fair new world order.

Your Majesty: The Palestinian issue is our central cause and for us in Jordan is a way of life. We have borne a large share of its burden, and we have shared with the Palestinians all their pains. We have shared our livelihood with them with dignity, and we have shared their struggle, and backed their intifadah, and we will continue to back their struggle until they regain their full rights on the soil of Palestine.

We are proud of Your Majesty's efforts to convince the world to recognize the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their land with Jerusalem as its capital—the point of departure for Prophet Muhammad's journey to heaven and the cradle of his brother Jesus Christ, may the peace of God be upon them. It will be written in history books in letters of light that you never relinquished a right nor delayed in fulfilling an obligation regarding this sacred cause, which is the cause of the Arab and Muslim worlds. We look forward to Jordan sticking to its abiding position of helping the Palestinian people everywhere, and backing their struggle to attain their full rights with all means and ways, remaining committed to our constants that allow for no changes.

Your Majesty: The House of Representatives repeats its thanks and gratitude to Your Majesty, and proudly appreciates your benevolent stands and efforts on behalf of the wellbeing of the homeland and the glory of the nation, and prays to God that He assist you in the cause of right and help you see the right way, and guide your march on the road to righteousness. You will find us, Your Majesty, the best help in the march of righteousness and the right path. And say: "Work righteousness; soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the Believers." [Koranic verse] May the peace of God be upon you.

Senate Reply

JN0712171391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1203 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Senate's Reply to King Husayn's 1 December speech from the throne; read by Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi in Raghadan Palace in Amman on 7 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of the God of all humanity. Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, may God support and protect him: The Senate has the honor and is also pleased to extend to Your Majesty the best greetings, the sincerest loyalty, and the deepest gratitude for opening the third ordinary session of the 11th Jordanian Parliament, for the strong will expressed in the speech from the throne to reinforce the bases of democracy and political pluralism, and for expressing a sincere respect for the citizen's rights and preserving his human dignity and basic liberties within the framework of the performance of the duty and the sense of responsibility.

Your Majesty: We take pride in the democratic trend to which we have committed ourselves and we appreciate its positive impact on the gains and achievements we have made and will make under its canopy in all walks of life—democracy which will guarantee the citizen's freedom, release his talents and capabilities, and secure for him the right to take part in responsibility and decisionmaking. This will make us further adhere to and insist on this trend and will also further our determination to safeguard it from any stumbling or derailment. Practicing democracy needs the utmost awareness and commitment to the moral values and the legal rules. Otherwise, it will end up in a state of confusion, in which the citizen will not feel safe about himself, his freedom, his dignity, and his property.

Hence comes our eagerness to hold dialogue among the various political and intellectual groups through reason, morality, mutual respect, and renouncing accusations, hurting one another, and factors for fragmentation. Undoubtedly, our citizens' awareness, their sound reason, and their confidence in their leadership and institutions have always been a strong guarantee for protecting this sound trend.

Your Majesty: The National Charter occupied an important place in the royal speech from the throne. As the Senate looks forward to more cooperation with the government and the House of Representatives at this stage of our country's march toward construction and reform, it stresses that the principles, bases, values, concepts, and goals contained in the National Charter constitute a comprehensive future concept for the spheres of development and renewal in the various fields. It also includes intellectual bases and organizational rules for promoting the country's development and for contributing to progress in the fields of politics, culture, education, national economy, public administration, social work, environment, human rights, and modernizing the legislature on fair bases, the society's needs, and the spirit of the age within the framework of the principles of the Constitution and the supremacy of the law.

Your Majesty: The Senate, which participated, proudly and faithfully, with all factions of the Jordanian people in their blessing of the National Charter, which rightly represents our people's national, pan-Arab, and human aspirations, hopes that the esteemed government will begin to apply the charter's principles and pillars and to consider them bases for public national action and organized political activity in order to reinforce the democratic trend, which Your Majesty has sought and whose bases were approved by the various factions and popular and official national trends.

The Senate will also exert its utmost efforts to enact the political parties law and the press and publications law to complete steps toward accomplishing other legislatures related to the essence of the democratic and development process.

Your Majesty: From the beginning, Jordan dealt with the Palestine question through the spirit of pan-Arab responsibility, joint fate, and complete awareness of the regional and international circumstances, and has borne responsibilities beyond its material and human capabilities in order to repel the Zionist danger. For that purpose, it offered dear sacrifices to defend the right and preserve pan-Arab dignity. Jordan has always supported all initiatives to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that will guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights on the soil of Palestine, will secure a total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem, and will achieve stability and security in a region that suffered from continued wars.

When the current peace march began and the world voiced consensus on the need to apply international legitimacy to the Palestine question and implement UN resolutions, Jordan decided that this new trend was in harmony with the firm principles you have long advocated to achieve a just peace. Therefore, it agreed to participate in this endeavor out of its eagerness to protect the nation, to provide security and peace for coming generations, and to stress the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil.

The Senate supports the government's endeavors to coordinate efforts with Palestinian brothers and with the Arab countries. It urges further common coordination and unification of political positions among all the Arabs to serve pan-Arab interests. Throughout long years, Jordan has acquired wide global respect and appreciation as an element of stability and of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. International moves to achieve this peace and eliminate hotbeds of tension proved the soundness of Jordan's policy and its importance for the Arab cause.

The Senate will support the government's inclination to bolster our ties with fraternal and friendly countries, and to participate effectively in the activities of Arab, Islamic, and international organizations.

Your Majesty: The Senate emphasizes its pride in the Armed Forces, the shield and fortified fence of the homeland. It supports the government's plans to supply the Armed Forces with modern weaponry, to constantly upgrade their capabilities and competence in terms of preparation and training, and to enable them to continue their honorable role in protecting the homeland and defending its independence and sovereignty.

The Senate appreciates the Jordanian security establishment, with its various services, for its constant contribution to maintain the security of the homeland and citizens, and safeguard their freedoms, rights, and property from any tampering. The Senate supports the government's policy and efforts to bolster the role of these services and enable them to perform their national duty in the best way under the shadow of the rule of law.

Your Majesty: The Senate supports the government's inclination toward comprehensive educational reform by turning the educational process from one of dictation and instruction-giving to one of thought and creativity; by drafting an integrated program for national and military education; by adopting scientific methods in research and application to solve problems and confront crises; and by strengthening the concept of academic freedoms in our universities. The educational reform program should also encourage cultural activity, the participation of youths in development and its projects, the possession and use of technology, the provision of data and technology needed for investment, the implementation of the national strategy to protect and promote the environment, the effective management and utilization of water resources, and the attainment of our firm and acquired rights to joint waters.

The Senate joins the government in its concern about media and national guidance, and calls for a media policy that enhances the climate of responsible freedom and respect of the other opinion. It urges care for the creativity that serves the homeland, away from sensationalism and claims of monopoly over right and truth. The Senate also believes in the importance of the mosque's message and role in deepening belief, spreading the spirit of brotherhood, closing ranks, and avoiding anything that divides the sons of the unified people. For, God Almighty said: "Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong. They are the ones to attain felicity." [Koranic verse]

Your Majesty: The Gulf crisis has left long-term impact on Arab relations and weakened the role of the Arab League and its institutions as a framework for solidarity, cooperation, and coordination among the Arab countries. The Senate appreciates government's efforts to restore fraternal relations among all the Arab brothers without exception, on the basis of good neighborliness, common interests, and common destiny, especially at this stage, when the Arab entity is facing the greatest challenges. The Senate registers with satisfaction that these efforts have begun to bear fruit, which encourage further good offices in this respect.

The Senate is watching with anxiety the agony of the fraternal Iraqi people of all their groups, and the deprivation of Iraqi children of food and medicine as a result of the continued blockade. It urges Arab brothers, Muslims, and international conscience to work to lift this blockade and put and end to this humanitarian tragedy.

Your Majesty: In the speech from the throne, you talked about the demographic situation that harmed Jordan during and after the Gulf crisis. As a result of that crisis, Jordan received more than 900,000 people of various nationalities. To accommodate them, provide them with medical, social, and humanitarian services, and return them to their countries, the government bore huge burdens. In addition, more than 300,000 citizens returned to the country; they were forced to leave the Gulf, especially Kuwait. These returnees constitute more than 10 percent of the population. With its limited resources, Jordan cannot secure public services and job opportunities for them. We call for an end to this forceful emigration, and urge the world community and fraternal Arab countries to solve this problem.

The Senate supports the government's inclination and endeavors to straighten the course of national economy and address its main problems, represented by recession, unemployment, balance-of-payments disturbance, and budget deficit. It looks forward to seeing further measures and policies to control public spending and make sure that it is effective and that it serves its purposes. It also looks forward to activating the role of the private sector in investment and production. The Senate believes that it is high time the treatment of poverty and unemployment took priority in the government's programs, within a comprehensive national plan that takes into consideration the most important reasons that aggravated the problems of poverty and unemployment—namely, the exceptional growth of population, the decrease in the gross national product in fixed prices, the resulting decrease in the per capita income, and the decline of the purchase power of the Jordanian dinar.

Your Majesty: For all the challenges and difficulties, Jordan will continue to be the strong backer and the faithful leader of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt in unity, freedom, and better life. This is the message of Your Majesty, in whose leadership we take pride and for whom we have love and loyalty. May God grant you success, and guide you along the path of virtue as a victorious leader for the country and a faithful backer of the nation. Peace be upon you.

Hashemian Cited on Hopes for Prisoners' Release

NC1312094391 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic's delegation which arrived in Beirut yesterday started its meeting with some leading figures. They met Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

In the first meeting, talks focused on a number of Islamic issues in view of the latest developments in the region and the world, in addition to the Palestine question and ways of supporting the intifadah in occupied Palestine.

As for the meeting with al-Husayni, it dealt with the secretariat of this conference and how to elect the members. [not further specified]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian announced that they discussed the situation in the region, the Madrid peace conference and the one currently convened in Washington. Viewpoints were in agreement that this conference is rejected, that it will lead to nothing, that it will will bring no gains to the Palestinian and Islamic people, and that Israel is the only beneficiary from this conference.

Answering a question, Hashemian hoped the hostage problem will be resolved in general, that the Lebanese and Palestinian hostages held inside Israel will be released, and that the Iranian diplomats would also be released.

Al-Husayni Receives Iranian Delegation, Messages

NC1212133291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this afternoon received an Iranian delegation comprising Hojjat Ol-Eslam Hashemian, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles; Mahmud Hashemi, director general of the Middle East Affairs Department; Dr. Mozaffari-Nezhad, deputy of the Islamic Majles; Ahmad Dastmalchian; Mohammad Nurani; and Iranian Charge in Beirut 'Ali Zadeh.

The delegation conveyed messages to al-Husayni from Islamic Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi and Hojjat Ol-Eslam Seyyed Musavi-Lari, secretary general of the International Conference on Supporting the Islamic Revolution of the Palestinian People. The delegation members held consultations with al-Husayni on the formation of the general secretariat of that conference and ways to select members.

Mr. Karrubi [as heard] has said that consultations were held on current developments in the region, as well as the so-called peace conference. He pointed out that views were identical on rejecting this conference which leads to nothing, since the Palestinians will gain nothing from it and only the Israelis stand to gain.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Dakar Summit Meeting

NC1212094891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic summit ended its work in Dakar early today and issued a final statement on its meetings. The summit called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and condemned Israel's policy in the Golan Heights and Jerusalem, particularly the issue of annexation, settlement, and confiscation of land and water resources.

The Islamic summit said that all of the Israeli measures in connection with the Golan Heights are null and void. It iterated that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East cannot be realized except by the full and unconditional withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut last night after attending the Dakar summit conference.

Buwayz, Dumas Discuss Military Issues

NC1212192191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Minister Faris Buwayz today discussed relations between the two countries and consolidating the Lebanese Army's capabilities and supplying it with military helicopters.

The French minister made a statement to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at Bustrus Palace, saying that Paris backs Lebanon's participation in the Arab-Israel peace talks that began with the opening of the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October. Dumas added that his talks with Minister Buwayz also dealt with supplying the Lebanese Army with French military helicopters instead of the Mirage aircraft which Lebanon purchased [as heard] from France in 1975.

For his part, Minister Buwayz said Dumas' visit is indicative of the special relationship between Paris and Beirut.

This evening the French minister visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Muslim and Christian religious leaders.

Buwayz, Dumas Comment on Talks

NC1212144091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Roland Dumas, French minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the talks held with the Lebanese side dealt with issues of common interest, contribution to Lebanon's reconstruction, and issues relating to cultural cooperation, in addition to helping develop video and audio media. Dumas added that the talks also dealt with world problems and timely issues, noting: We postponed the talks for later meetings.

For his part, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Minister Dumas' visit to Lebanon reflects France's interest in our country and symbolizes the historic links between the two countries.

Dumas and Buwayz were speaking at the end of the first round of the Lebanese-French talks at Bustrus Palace.

Ministers Buwayz and Dumas and a number of guests went to the French embassy in Mar Taqla for a luncheon hosted by Minister Dumas in honor of a number of Lebanese ministers, deputies, and civilian and military personalities.

At 1600, about now, the French foreign minister is to visit Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni within the context of his meetings with Lebanese Government officials to discuss the future of relations between the two countries.

Further on Dumas Visit

NC1212204091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met today with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at the Foreign Ministry. He announced that Paris supports Lebanon's participation in the peace conference and is closely following developments.

Dumas added that he discussed with Buwayz returning the Mirage jets which belong to the Lebanese Army and the Army's purchase of military helicopters. He said this issue will be discussed with the concerned Lebanese authorities, who in turn will make a decision on the matter.

Discussion between the two ministers also dealt with France's contribution to Lebanon's reconstruction and developing cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Buwayz expressed satisfaction with his meeting with Dumas. He said his visit demonstrates the extent to which France is interested in Lebanon and shows the special relationship between them. He said they also exchanged views on domestic and regional matters.

The French minister this afternoon visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. [passage omitted]

Dumas said his visit to al-Husayni was important because the Chamber of Deputies embodies national sovereignty. He said he discussed with al-Husayni Lebanon's reconstruction, parliamentary affairs, future Lebanese elections, and the election law.

Speaker al-Husayni said the French foreign minister's visit in the present circumstances is significant, particularly because France has a contingent serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Al-Husayni added: It also is important because we are involved in seeking a timetable for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the Israeli forces' withdrawal to the international border. France is interested in this matter and is assisting Lebanon in its multi-sided reconstruction program. Dumas' visit comes in this context. [passage omitted]

Tayr Dibbah Deployment Reportedly Near Resolution

NC1212210691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] A prominent ministerial source has affirmed, in a statement to AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY, that the disagreement between the Lebanese Government and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] Command over the deployment of the Lebanese Army in Tayr Dibbah is about to be resolved.

According to the source, the Army will remain in the township and will, indeed, deploy in a nearby sector comprised of seven villages. UNIFIL will maintain a symbolic presence in the area. The source added that the government is conducting intensive contacts with New York in order to eliminate the obstacles to the Army's deployment. He noted that positive results have been obtained.

Israelis, Lahd Militia Shell Villages in South

NC1312075991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces and Lahd militias have continued their attacks on the villages in the south. They shelled with artillery Wadi al-Saluqi and the Litani valley.

In Iqlim al-Tuffah, Lahd militias fired machine guns in the direction of 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, Al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh. The resistance had earlier carried out an operation against Lahd militias between the two towns of Al-Tyyibah and Al-Qantarah. One armored vehicle was damaged and three men were injured. The Lahd militias admitted this operation and said they combed the region.

'Atrocities' at Israeli Detention Center Described

LD0712115791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] A number of Lebanese Muslim revolutionary captives [osara] who have recently been released from the Zionist Khiyam detention center in southern Lebanon have revealed further details of the Zionist regime's atrocities at that detention center in an interview with correspondents.

Speaking to our correspondent in Beirut, two of the captives described the poor and unbearable conditions at the Khiyam detention center, saying: The Zionist regime's security personnel punch and kick the captives during interrogation. In many cases, the torture leads to broken ribs and other injuries.

Continuing the interview, the two Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries added: To date, eight Lebanese captives have been martyred at the Khiyam detention center as a result of the brutal treatment by the Zionist regime's security personnel.

Foreign Minister Criticizes Israeli Stand

NC1212184591 London MBC Television in Arabic 1803 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by MBC correspondent Nidal Qabalan in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] Until now, the Israeli Government has had no intention of withdrawing from the occupied territories. It is wrong for anyone—Arab or foreigner, friend or foe alike—to think that Arabs can establish peaceful relations with Israel while it still occupies any part of the Arab lands. This is not possible, is out of the question, and contradicts the logic of history. The Arab nation—with its civilization, traditions, glorious past, legitimate aspirations, and culture—can never accept under any circumstances waiving its rights or showing leniency in regaining its occupied lands from Israel.

[Qabalan] What do you expect will happen in Washington?

[Al-Shar'] If the Israeli stand remains as it was in Madrid, and as reflected in recent Israeli statements, we do not expect real progress in the ongoing peace efforts. Unfortunately, the situation may reach a stalemate or a dead end. We, as Syrians, are serious in the peace process and we want to arrive at a comprehensive and just peace in the region on the basis of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. But peace cannot be established unilaterally; there must be a positive orientation and a mutual desire on Israel's part if peace is to be established in the region.

Khaddam Returns Home; Statements Reported

JN1312074191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and his delegation returned to Damascus at dawn today following a brief visit to Mauritania on his way home from Dakar. During the visit, he delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania. [passage omitted]

In statements to journalists regarding his meeting with the Mauritanian president, Khaddam said he was happy to have met with the president. He said: We held talks on the Arab condition, on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and on bilateral ties.

He added: Naturally, I was very satisfied with this meeting. I delivered to the president a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad, and he gave me a message in reply. On this occasion, I would like to congratulate the fraternal Mauritanian people on the Corrective Movement anniversary. I wish the Mauritanian people further progress, wellbeing, and prosperity.

Regarding the outcome of the visit and the role it can play to strengthen ties between Syria and Mauritania, the vice president said: I am satisfied with the visit and its outcome. I believe it constitutes a good step to bolster brotherly and cordial relations between the two countries. We will do all we can to activate the ties, and put them in their proper place, because Nouakchott and Damascus agree on the need to activate and strengthen these ties for their benefit and for the benefit of joint Arab action.

Asked about the talks on the Middle East currently taking place in Washington, Khaddam said: You know that an initiative has been proposed. We say we truly want a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. An initiative has been proposed to apply the UN resolutions. We accepted it and the first round began in Madrid. The second round is now being held in Washington.

In this regard, the vice president said: We have a clear demand; namely, Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights. When these two demands are met, we can say that the region is on its way to peace. If these two demands are not met, this means the Israeli enemy is continuing its aggression, intransigence, and refusal to submit to international legitimacy.

Asked about the future of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, Khaddam asserted: The future of the Golan is not determined by the Israeli Knesset. The future of the Golan is determined by our resolve to liberate it and to do all we can to expel [nukhrij] the Israeli enemy. We will expel the Israeli enemy sooner or later because in no way can a single inch of Arab soil or a single iota of the Palestinian people's national rights be abandoned.

India

More on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng

Li, Rao Seek 'Consensus'

BK1212144891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] India and China have agreed to work together in building a world order where all countries have the right to formulate their views and decide their destinies in economic and political fields. During their talks in New Delhi today, the two delegations agreed that they must work together to prevent regional imbalances which could lead to regional conflicts. They said apart from trying to build a consensus among themselves, they should also discuss bilaterally and in other forums what the developing countries can do for themselves and in taking a common stand in their dialogue with the North. They agreed that a new world order must be based on the five principles of coexistence. They expressed their opposition to any groupism.

The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, said that misgivings about his country in Southeast Asia were a thing of the past as they have now realized that China will never use force.

Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said India wanted nothing but peace with its neighbors. He said in ideological terms it has nothing to export but goodwill.

Bilateral, Global Issues Discussed

BK1212162391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] India and China have agreed that the boundary question should not be seen as an obstacle in their joint efforts to expand, strengthen, and deepen bilateral relations. During their talks lasting over two hours, the two delegations agreed that a good deal of more work should be done to improve cultural relations between the two countries. They also agreed that there is need to work together in the fields of science and technology and for greater economic cooperation.

The Chinese prime minister appreciated the principled stand taken by India, recognizing Tibet as an autonomous region of China.

The two countries agreed to work together in building a world order where all countries have the right to formulate their views and decide their destinies in the economic and political fields. They agreed to work together to prevent regional imbalances which can lead to regional conflicts. They said apart from reaching mutual consensus, they should also discuss bilaterally at other forums what the developing countries can do for themselves and in taking a common stand in their dialogue with the North.

On the far-reaching changes that have taken place in the world, both the sides felt that a serious imbalance of world forces is making it increasingly difficult for developing countries to overcome their problems, both on the political and economic fronts. They agreed that the emerging new world order must be based on the five principles of coexistence. They expressed their opposition to any groupism and said no country could be permitted to manipulate world affairs.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said that the G-15 summit was organized precisely to achieve the objective of self-reliance among developing countries. The two sides underlined the need to promote peace at home and abroad. This, they said, applies especially to the neighbors of the two countries.

The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, said that the misgivings in Southeast Asia about his country are a thing of the past as the region has now realized that China will never use force or local communist parties to export its system.

Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said India wanted nothing but peace with its neighbors. He said in ideological terms it has nothing to export but goodwill. He also expressed concern about the growing strength of fundamentalist forces in several regions in our neighborhood. He said all efforts must be made to arrest the growth of such forces. If such forces remain unchecked, these will greatly hamper the development process. Mr. Narasimha Rao said it is important for the two countries which share similar views on the need to preserve secular and pluralistic society to work together.

The two sides agreed that the visit of the Chinese prime minister, which comes after 31 years, will lead to marked improvement in their relations. The foundation for this was laid during the visit of the late prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in December 1988. As part of this process, the two countries will sign three important agreements.

Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the talks, which were conducted in an extremely friendly and cordial atmosphere, will continue tomorrow. He said the two sides also reviewed the developments in the Soviet Union. They agreed that recent events there have led to greater turbulence and instability. They felt that the situation in Yugoslavia has made even more difficult to predict the likely course of events.

Earlier, the Chinese prime minister called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan]. They held talks on matters of bilateral interest. Mr. Li Peng invited Mr. Venkataraman to visit his country.

The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, called on Mr. Li Peng at the Rashtrapati Bhavan this evening.

Meets Congress-I Delegation

BK1312032291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] A Congress-I delegation led by the former external affairs minister, Mr. Baliram Bhagat, called on the visiting Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, in New Delhi yesterday evening. The two sides emphasized the need to strengthen relations between the Congress-I and the Communist Party of China.

Three Sets of Cooperation Accords Signed

BK1312090091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] India and China today signed three sets of agreement covering consular matters, trade and economic relations, cooperation in outer space as well as in science and technology. The prime ministers of the two countries, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Li Peng, were present at the signing ceremony held at the Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House].

The agreement for establishment of consular general offices at Bombay by China and at Shanghai by India and for a consular convention between India and China were signed by the minister for external affairs, Mr. Madhav Singh Soolanki, and the Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen.

The minister of state for commerce, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and the Chinese minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr. Li Lanqing, also signed three agreements. These are memorandum on resumption of bilateral border trade, the annual trade pact of 1992, and an agreement on the minutes of the third session of India-China joint group on economic relations, trade, and science and technology.

The memorandum for understanding about cooperation relating to peaceful exploitation of outer space and science and technology were signed by the secretary in the Department of Space and the Chinese vice minister of aeronautics and aeronautics industry, Mr. Liu Jiyuan.

Our correspondent adds that the two sides held a second round of talks lasting about two hours early this morning before signing these agreements.

Police Arrest Tibetan Protesters

BK1212163791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Fifty-four Tibetans courted arrest in New Delhi today in protest against the visit of the Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng. According to police sources another 35 Tibetans were arrested for trying to block the traffic.

Tibetans Attempt To Storm PRC Embassy

BK1312080091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 13 (AFP)—Young Tibetan exiles made a second abortive bid Friday to storm the Chinese Embassy here, keeping up for the third straight day pro-independence protests against Prime Minister Li Peng's landmark India visit.

Some 15 protestors chanting "Death to Li Peng" and "Long live the Dalai Lama" were beaten back by police, who prevented them from approaching the gates of the heavily-guarded embassy.

Waving black flags, the demonstrators shouting "Li Peng quit Tibet" jumped out of a van and ran towards a steel barricade erected by police outside the mission, witnesses said. But none managed to get past and they were dragged off in police vans to be detained on charges of violating a ban on public assemblies.

It was the second attempt in two days by Tibetan protestors to storm the embassy. The first Thursday surprised police and prompted beefed-up security.

Tibetan exiles in India are observing the length of Li's six-day visit, the first to India by a Chinese leader in 31 years, as a "black week" in the face of a police crackdown in which hundreds of protestors have been held.

India is home to the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual and temporal leader who fled his homeland following an abortive 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. It also hosts 100,000 of his followers, but the New Delhi government recognizes Beijing's claims to Tibet.

Prime Minister on Economic Reforms, USSR Ties

PM1012122291 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Dec 91 p 8

[Interview with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao by Patrice de Beer and Jean-Pierre Clerc in Paris; date not given]

[Text] On a brief visit to Paris, where he had talks with Francois Mitterrand before participating in a meeting in Caracas of the Third World group known as the G-15, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao—who has been in power since 21 June—granted an interview to LE MONDE. Playing down the impact on his country of the collapse of the Soviet Union, its main ally, he said that India is perfectly capable of adapting to these changes.

"India has friendly relations with all countries.... Our friendship with one country has never undermined our friendship for others.... Our relations with the Soviet Union do not interfere with those which we maintain with the United States." Delicately and with surprising restraint, Mr. Rao tried to dispel the suspicion that the collapse of the USSR might have left India destitute.

Listening to this little man who speaks softly and simply, you almost wonder whether there have been any changes on the international stage recently. Mr. Rao is a kind of political minesweeper. His philosophy seems to be to try to defuse crises rather than tackling them directly, to play them down hoping that they will wane by themselves. The Gandhis' flamboyant and polemical style is certainly a thing of the past.

What about the treaty of friendship and cooperation with Moscow which has been the cornerstone of New Delhi's diplomacy for the past 20 years? "We will have to adapt, like all countries, to the very rapid changes that have taken place in the USSR. Treaties will have to be redrafted. Our foreign minister was in Moscow a few days ago. He saw the Soviet president but also the Russian president. I hope that the transition in our relations will be smooth." India is also working with other republics: "We signed an agreement with Uzebekistan on 15 August."

Moreover, Mr. Rao argued, the USSR was not India's only commercial partner or its sole arms supplier. "We have considerable cooperation with Western Europe—Britain, for instance." And what about France, whose President Mr. Rao met during a lightning visit on 26 November? "Many things are becoming possible with the major economic changes which we have just introduced. I said that to the representatives of the National Council of French Employers with whom I met in Paris."

Is a rapprochement with the United States, which has become the only superpower, in the air? "Our relations are already good, and even excellent in some spheres, such as the transfer of technology. We have different views on some international political issues, but that is natural. But, on the whole, there are no problems."

Improvement in Relations With China

Mr. Rao's greatest source of satisfaction is clearly the visit by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng in early December. Indeed, this bears witness to an extraordinary improvement in relations with a country which—in 1962—launched a war against India. This improvement is bound to be welcome at a time when the country is exposed because of the fall of its ally, the former USSR.

That leaves Pakistan, against which India has fought three wars in less than 50 years. Continuing with his efforts to play things down, Mr. Rao said: "I have never regarded Pakistan as an enemy. We are neighbors and there are naturally problems between neighbors. But they should be settled by sitting down together and discussing them. I am inclined to believe that we will succeed in doing that."

Nonetheless, the disagreements with Islamabad are numerous and serious. For instance, New Delhi has just rejected a proposal to create a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. That was the only time when Mr. Rao almost became irritated: "Our stand on the subject is long-standing and well-known. It is obvious that nuclear weapons do not respect regional borders. Well, we think that disarmament is only meaningful if it is global."

Mr. Rao did not mince his words when criticizing what he regards as Islamabad's interference in Punjab and Kashmir. "The problem has been aggravated by the fact that terrorism in those regions is fueled from outside, in other words from Pakistan. That is a well-known fact, and we are trying to convince that country that it is not good for our relations. But we will probably have to live with this problem for a long time."

Sikh separatism in Punjab, Islamic dissidence in Kashmir, the resurgence of Hindu fundamentalism—these have been made obvious by the progess of the fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party in the recent elections. For many observers, these factors are threatening the union's stability, but the prime minister does not agree. With regard to the disturbances in Uttar Pradesh over the Ayodhya Mosque affair, which the Hindu extremists want to demolish to build a temple, the prime minister explained: "I see this as mainly political. Religion is merely a basis on which some parties are trying to build their political fortune."

The Economy: No Return to the Past

Questioned on the economic reforms implemented as soon as he came to power, Mr. Rao once again showed himself a master of understatement. Although the decision to eliminate restraint and bureaucracy and allow foreign competition in an economy controlled by "Indian-style socialism" since Nehru's day was unanimously regarded as revolutionary, he merely said: "The liberalization process began under Indira and was continued with Rajiv Gandhi. It has been speeded up because of the numerous problems which have arisen since 1989 in the balance of payments, the budget, and the rate of industrial production.

"We were in a delicate situation which forced us to implement these measures more quickly.... Even if this program seems very new—in its pace, scope, and methods—it is not really new." However, Mr. Rao admitted that "these reforms led to the dismantling of whole sections of our bureaucracy which had become redundant." And he explained: "There is no question of looking to the past."

Is Mr. Rao not worried by the strike which disrupted some sectors of the country's economy on 29 November in protest of this neoliberal reorientation? "Everything must be done openly. We have nothing to hide. We have had talks with the trade unions. We are taking care to reemploy or redeploy" those affected to "avoid creating any hardship"—another example of his constant search for consensus.

In conclusion, the prime minister appealed to all those foreigners interested in investing to help India improve its new system: "Although there are still long delays, they will be reduced." But, he said with his usual optimism, "the changes in procedure are already perceptible."

Foreign Policy Assessed Following USSR's Fall

BK1012155091 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 91 p 11

[By V.P. Dutt]

[Text] The deliberations over India's foreign policy in the wake of the gulf war and the collapse of communism have, unfortunately, oscillated between two extremes. Some people continue to cling to the view that nothing has really changed and that we can merrily go on in the old way, while others have been so carried away by the changing vicissitudes that they have virtually lost their moorings. One extremist view cries wolf at the slightest mention of rethinking; the other is so frightened that it would feel secure only if we hitch ourselves to a particular bandwagon. Both represent thought processes that are the legacy of a world that is dead and gone.

When the edifice of an entire camp of nations of a particular ideological persuasion, that had, to wit, formed a military bloc as well, collapses and when the citadel itself crumbles, undeniably there is a major transformation whose reverberations will be felt throughout the world. The fall of Moscow, so to say, is an extraordinary event and must induce serious thinking in regard to its consequences and its implications for India's foreign policy.

But we must be clear about the kind of world that has come into being in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the dissolution of the socialist camp.

The Gulf war was a war so cheap, a victory so overwhelming that we tend to forget its onesidedness and the fortuitous combination of circumstances that ensured this one-sidedness. No big power opposed the operation, not the USSR, nor even China. The war was fought in the name of the UN, even though its actual role in the hostilities was marginal. Through his indefensible aggression against Kuwait and refusal to negotiate in time, Saddam Husayn had united just about everybody against him or immobilised those who could have been of help in averting a war.

It was a mid-intensity war, just the kind that U.S. high technology was best suited to fight. Saddam Husayn's forces almost literally sat on their haunches, while the Americans accumulated overwhelming force, with no let or hindrance. The Iraqi soldiers were like sitting ducks waiting to be shot. They were pulverized without a fight. The war got overwhelming support within the United States not only because Saddam Husayn could be cast in the role of "evil incarnate", but even more because it did not bring hundreds and thousands of dead American bodies back.

While the military objectives were resoundingly successful, the strategic objectives have tended to go awry and thereby hangs a tale. There was so much noise coming from the West about the dawn of a new world order, that questioning voices were drowned out. The high-voltage advance publicity before and during the Gulf war about a new security system so hypnotized many Indian analysts and commentators that they beat their breasts about how India was going to be left out of the big league game for its tardiness in joining the hurrah brigade.

Undeniably, the United States is the sole super power at present. But its economic strength is now incommensurate with its military powers. The fortuitous set of circumstances we have alluded to earlier can hardly be replicated in any possible future conflict. Neither the UN flag nor lack of opposition from any other power nor the element of public support nor even the absence of any significant casualties. The situational factors in the Gulf war should not be underestimated. It is, therefore, a highly fanciful scenario to visualise a heavily-armed America stalking the globe at will, intervening here, there and everywhere and imposing its will on all and sundry.

If we keep this duality in view, our policy options become clearer. The question should not boil down to a choice between confrontation or capitulation. India has to protect its interests, which in their breadth are coterminous with the interests of the developing countries and are not antagonistic to the demands of peace and security. Our policy options should revolve around this framework. Among our paramount interests are the protection of India's autonomy in international affairs, the safeguarding of its security and the pursuit of policies that would facilitate faster economic development. Both the political and the economic struggle have to go together in the new world situation.

Let it not be forgotten that when Jawaharlal Nehru began asserting India's identity and stood up to big power pressures, the Soviet countervailing force was not yet available to the newly-emerging countries and that India's GDP [gross domestic product] at that time was a pathetic Rs [rupees]4,500 crore or so. The real difference was that Nehru mobilised the people for her policy of independence and there was political coherence in the country. He made a positive foreign policy subserve national coherence and promote a national sense of pride and self-reliance.

India never had a policy of provoking confrontation with any great power. India is not an adversary of any big power and no Indian interest is served by the adoption of a confrontationist stance. Specifically, a readjustment of relations with the United States is a desirable development. India needs the U.S.A., its market, some of its advanced technology and many other things from it as the U.S. needs India, its market, its services, its vibrant democracy, its position in the developing countries, and in a myriad other ways too. Maybe the Indian need at the moment is greater but it is not all that one-sided. In the new scenario of intense economic competition these needs will rise, not recede, among the developed countries too.

We can forge meaningful ties with the U.S. and even give certain concessions, but we do not have to be apologetic about protecting our interests. A policy anchored to our interests and to the larger interests of similarly-placed countries can be our only guideline.

While engaging in a legitimate give and take exercise, we will still have to oppose American policies where necessary in our interests, whether in bilateral matters impinging on the service sector of India and intellectual property rights (while not excluding give and take) and the like or on the global plane. We will still have to prod the Americans on nuclear disarmament (on the issue of nuclear tests, for instance) and will still have to resist the attempts to establish a unilateralist regime of the nuclear haves. We will still not go along with their strategic doctrine that concentrates on the use of overwhelming lethal and rapidly deployable force in regional conflicts.

While the Soviet Union is beset with many difficult current problems, and the outcome is still not certain, any assumption about the end of Soviet power—at least Russian power—will not be a valid assumption. With its enormous resources, size and military might, Russia in whatever form it takes, would continue to be potentially a great power. We must maintain close relations with it, develop multiple contacts especially with the republics, including the Ukraine and the Central Asian Republics, like Kazakhstan. We should invite major political figures from the republics, especially the Russian Federation, and set up our own contacts with these republics.

Gradually we must search for ways to secure a better balance in the world. The rising European and Japanese economic centres have been noted by one and all, so too the need for cultivating stronger ties with them. It would have to be a gradual and, perhaps, a slow process. In this connection a deeper dialogue with China should be on the agenda. Both China and India now have many common interests in the new international situation. The time has come for serious talks both at official and non-official levels for promoting joint standpoints on world issues to the extent possible.

Similarly, we must further develop and deepen our relations with the South-East Asian countries. We must not ignore countries like Vietnam and Cambodia while we develop, and should develop our relations with the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] nations.

The proposition that some people are putting forward that we adopt the same policy towards all our neighbours is a ludicrous proposition. We have to adopt a discriminating stance in relation to our neighbouring countries. What is good for our relations with Nepal certainly does not hold water in regard to our relations with Pakistan. Pakistan is carrying on what has been called a low-intensity war against India. But this is not of low intensity for us. We need to develop parallel approaches that would incorporate suitable responses both to the imperative desirability of working towards a rapprochement and the ground reality of Pakistan's support to terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. While we look for opportunities for improvement of relations with Pakistan, it should be equally clear to Islamabad that it has to end its intervention in our country. We might have to raise the cost for Islamabad for its interventionist policies. Only when the Islamabad authorities realise that the costs are unacceptable to them will they change their policy towards us. Concomitantly, we must vigorously combat communalism within our country.

The struggle for a better balance and a more benign world order as well as a reorganisation of the United Nations, including the Security Council, cannot be seriously undertaken without uniting forces with other struggling countries in the South. In fact the demise of the East-West struggle could very well lead to the heightening of the North-South tensions and difficulties. It is poor advice to turn our backs on the Non-Aligned Movement. In fact, since there is no "East" now, it is even more important to develop unity of action with the South, particularly the non-aligned, in the struggle towards a better balance to the Americo-Euro-centred world.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Presents Budget To Majles

LD1012111091 Tehran Voice of The Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1058 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Draft Budget for March 1992 - March 1993, presented by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Majles in Tehran on 7 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings and peace to the Prophet of God and His scion. We thank the great God that we succeeded in presenting the budget well in time to the honorable Majles. Before I submit the text of the issues and problems which must be presented on the presentation of the budget, I must offer my thanks to you for the cooperation which has existed between the Majles and the government. It was through such cooperation that we managed to accomplish a hard task and cover a difficult course.

I would like to ask the honorable representatives to consider the figures and indices, brought in the text, with diligence and care. As far as we can understand, thanks be to God, the course has been covered well. All the negative indices are presenting their move toward a positive direction. Figures and data are good indicators of the country's situation which is moving toward improvement. We hope that the kind of cooperation which has existed with the present legislative period will continue during the next period so that the Government and the Majles may succeed, through their efforts and cooperation, to turn this phase—a phase which the enemies had pinned their eyes on as the slaughter place of the regime—into a point for take-off and movement toward perfection and glory both in economic and political affairs at home and abroad. I give my thanks, in advance, for the support which the Majles in its totality, as well as the honorable speaker and the Budget and Plan Committee, will accord to the budget. I am certain that through its efforts the Majles will make good any shortcomings which may be in the budget which the Government has submitted. Hopefully we will have a more advanced budget compared with the past years. Since the text is very long I will cut short peripheral remarks and will then read the text for you, honorable representatives.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the ending of the imposed war by Iraq against Iran the country's economy entered a new phase—a phase which revealed, more than at any other time, the need for efforts to reconstruct the country.

As a result of the efforts which were made, the first economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran was drafted in this period. During the first two and half years of the implementation of the first development plan the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran succeeded in bringing about basic changes in the economic scene of the country. These changes are shown in various economic indices.

We hope that once the policies and practices, adopted under the framework of the first plan, as well as the method of their performance during the past two years are strengthened, then the Government will be able to accelerate the speed of reforms in the future and strengthen the trend of output and investment more than before. Thus, we hope that the government will be able to take bigger strides toward solving the country's economic problems.

The policy which was adopted in the First Plan Law and the government's performance during the period of 68-70 [21 March 1990 and 20 March 1992 was principally around the objective of rebuilding and renewing the structure of country's economy to increase output. The main points of these changes can be explained as follows:

1. According to the decisions of the honorable Majles, incorporated in the First Plan Law, during recent years efforts have been made to bring about the necessary enviornment for economic activity by the government institutions and the private sector. Thus, many bureaucratic phases, which hindered the activity of the country's economic sectors, have either been eliminated or undergone considerable changes.

2. With regard to the price system, including the prices of goods and services, as well as prices of human and capital resources and foreign exchange, which had acquired a chaotic situation because of conditions of imposed war as well as administrative measures to control prices, considerable effort has been made toward creating a price system in line with the economic realities of the country.

3. In the past fundamental limitations as well as stages [as heard] involved in performance of foreign trade, whether exports or imports, were responsible for delaying the work and in some cases they were wasting the country's economic resources. Fortunately, now these stages and limitations have been considerably eliminated.

4. Some economic policies, which in the past had undue effects on output, as well as on the structure of the country's economy, have now been basically changed during the said period. Through setting of support prices for basic farm products, efforts have been made to maintain the income of the producers. This will then be effective in preventing the trend of migrating [from rural areas] to urban areas.

On the other hand, with due regard to the fact that in adopting this policy the government had the maintenance of the people's living standards in mind, the subsidy paid to control the prices of basic goods for consumers has been considerably increased. As an example, the cost price of one kilogram of flour on the basis of guaranteed prices is equal to 210 rials. But to maintain the low prices of bread for consumers, one kilogram of flour is sold at the price of 12 rials to bakeries.

Over 1,200 billion rials of hidden and open subsidies reach the consumer from this amount. When we look at the subsidies payed for other backed essential goods, we can see the heavy burden on the state.

Another positive effect from imposition of guaranteed prices is the encouragement of the producer to increase agricultural products. To that end, in '69 [Iranian year starting 21 March 1990] we witnessed a notable increase in basic agricultural goods. According to existing information, there was 36.4 percent growth in wheat production, 18 percent growth in barley production, 21.7 percent in the production of cultivated livestock fodder, 21.4 percent in rice and 63.6 percent in the production of citrus fruit last year.

5. Economic policies in relation to freeing and improving management conditions of state-owned systems and companies have led to notable increases in production and activities of production units in many cases. To that end, in '69, the GDP at constant prices saw a rise of 10.5 percent compared with the previous year. This growth is around 1.3 percent over the pre-set aim of the first programme.

The implementation of this policy in the industry sector has led to the effective use of the spare capacity and even the implementation of additional work shifts in some of the industries. To that end, the added value of the industry sector raised by 17.2 percent at constant prices in '69. In relation to this, information concerning the increase in the various appetites of the industries could clearly show this issue. For example: in the year '69 the industrial growth of steel products was 9 percent over the aims set in the program. It is predicted that in '70 production will be above the objective set by the program. The production of copper in '69 was over 17 percent of the program; it is predicted that the objective of the program will be reached in '70. The production of aluminium in '69 was double the program objective; in

'70, it is predicted that the production will be over 80 percent of the program objective.

In other industrial sectors, existing information points to considerable growth in production. To this end, the production figures for the first seven months [of the current year] of the Ministry of Heavy Industries indicate a 2.5 to 19 fold increase in the production of heavy goods vehicles and engineering machineries compared to a similar period last year.

During the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, many public investment activities were stalled. Considerable direct damage was inflicted on the infrastructure and production resources of the country. The said affairs, along with the lack of possibility to compensate for amortization of capacities, led to a notable (?weakening) of the economic capability of the country. For that reason, one of the fundamental policies of the government is the increase of infrastructural investment to compensate for the trend of the last few years. Fortunately, the downward trend in investment was halted for the first time in '69 since '63. In '69, there was a notable increase in this trend. The improvement in the fixed state investment credit ratio to the total government general credit budget from 19.4 percent in '68 to 29 percent in '69 is the result of this very same policy. This matter can have a considerable effect on the reconstruction trend of the country.

7. One of the basic economic difficulties of the country has been the particular situation of the country's budget and the formation of earnings and expenditure. One of the government's economic objectives during recent years has been the faciliation of this structure to increase internal earnings and further, the improvement of the structure of expenditure so that the portion of development expenditure will increase and the budget deficit in the program model becomes limited. [as heard]

Earnings from taxation, after a three-year recession during the '67 to '69 phase, has increased by 71.8 percent. Its ratio to the GDP has risen from 4.3 percent in '67 to 4.8 percent in '69. Continuing this trend, it is predicted that the said ratio in '70, that is the current year, will reach 6.7 percent. In that case, this will be over the set objective of the program.

During the years up to '67, the structure of expenditure was continuously changing in a way that the portion of flowing credit of the government's budget increased. From '67 onward, this trend was altered in a way that the portion of flowing credit of the total budget reduced and the portion of development credit increased. The portion of flowing credit in total expenditure changed from 80.6 percent in '67 to 69 percent in '69. The portion of development credit increased from 19.4 percent in '67 to 31 percent in '69.

That is a very (?positive) performance and is a very clear indicator.

According to the aims of the first plan, annual budgets should be designed in such a way that in the year 1372, the last year of the plan, there should be a budget deficit of less than 100 billion rials.

Fortunately, the government has achieved outstanding success during the past years in that regard. Each year it has managed to keep the budget deficit at the level that had been envisaged in the plan.

During 1369, the budget deficit was according to the plan and the budget for 1369 itself was even less than that. [sentence as heard]

Therefore, the government managed to reduce the ratio of the budget deficit to the total budget from 50.1 percent in 1367 to 10.6 percent in 1369.

Those are optimistic signs that show a healthy economy. That ratio is the lowest since 1355.

8. The banking system has witnessed a fundamental change toward improving methods for the allocation of its resource within the past few years. The most important of those activities can be mentioned individually.

1. The interest rate for facilities provided, which had remained the same since 1363, was increased starting in 1369 from around 4 to 12 percent to around 6 to 19 percent. The interest rate for investment deposits was competitive with the lowest interest rates for deposits on five-year investments and the banks were allowed to set interest rates themselves for other deposits on the condition that they were not less than similar rates for 1369.

Another of the most important adopted fiscal policies that can be named is the change in the structure of the facilities that are provided based on the banking system.

On that basis, the share of facilities provided to the nongovernment sector would be increased from 39.8 percent in 1367 to 49 percent in 1369.

On the other hand, the level of facilities provided to the government sector, which was increasing in 1367 to a level of 60.2 percent, decreased to 50.3 percent in 1369. So government money [corrects himself] so the government does not spend banks' money—it is invested in nongovernment sectors.

Starting in 1370, the determining policy for credit ceilings was reviewed. Chiefly through the application of automatic financial levers, the facilities provided were brought under control. In that regard, banks were allowed to provide facilities to the level of the gained resources on the basis of the shares of the economic sectors and within the framework of the goals of the first plan. That action, while strengthening the main economic levers for the control of the banking resource systems, can also facilitate competition between banks to attract resources and to provide better services, improve the structure of banks, and result in banks making a profit.

You know banks made a profit for the first time last year and the trend of banks making a loss ended.

9. In recent years, the government embarked on activating the stock exchange, and the activity of the Tehran exchange was pursued in a more serious manner starting in 1368. In 1369, stock exchange activities reached an unprecedented level, such that the total volume of activity reach 65 billion, [currency not specified]. This represents a six-fold increase over 1368. The figure—and this is an interesting figure—has reached 301 billion rials in the first nine months of this year. The number of companies on the stock exchange rose from 56 companies in 1368, to 95 1369 to 121 in 1370.

It can, therefore, be seen that—bearing in mind that many problems continue to exist in connection with the administration of the stock exchange—notable successes have been achieved.

10. With regard to foreign exchange [word indistinct]: During the past few years, a balanced and unified rate has been the goal. Toward this end, the presentation of competitive and floating exchange rates and the elimination of a variety of other foreign exchange rates can be named [as achievements]. The effect of this is that the country's foreign currency system is currently based on three foreign currency rates. At the moment, the official and competitive rates are for the import of necessary goods and for necessary services, and the floating rate is the basis for assessing the country's exports and for non-necessary goods. As to the encouragement of non-oil exports, in addition to the imposition of a floating exchange rate as the exchange rate for revenue from non-oil exports, another measure taken was the establishment of a fund for foreign currency support for exports—a first step toward the creation of an export promotion bank and the authorization of banks to use the rial like other foreign currencies for clearing [word indistinct].

As a result of these measures, the value of the country's non-oil exports, after increasing by 16.2 percent 1369, has increased more than 100 percent during the first seven months of this year.

The above remarks mainly reviewed the recent (?trends) of the country's economy. I feel it is necessary to bring to the deputies' atttenion some points in connection with existing international issues and the outlook for the country's economy in 1371, which will also be reflected in the government's financial program and, consequently, in the budget.

11. On the world economic scene, developments are taking shape that certainly have not been without influence on the state economy and the 1371 budget, and it is imperative that particular attention be paid to them. These same issues have resulted in our being cautious in the figure we presented to the Majles, and thus we set a lower ceiling on the program. One of the clearest developments—which naturally is of special importance for our country—is the outlook on the production and price of oil. As it can be discerned, the American military presence in the region, under any pretext, pursues a fundamental hidden objective: the control of the plentiful flow of oil as well as keeping its price down. Unfortunately, some of the regional states are also in complete coordination [with the United States] and are agents for the implementation of this policy. It is imperative for this group of regional states to note that this is a mistake since the prosperity of their people is more dependent on the expansion of friendly and strong ties with other regional states as well as the internal development of their own economic-social systems. This is also realizable, to a considerable extent, through the development of economic-cultural-political ties between regional states. Nothing can replace such relations to reduce the likely dangers of future instabilities. Reliance on foreign powers will particularly result in nothing but the preparation of grounds for blackmail and the pervasive domination of foreign powers in the economic-political economies of states.

It is imperative that in relation to the oil price issue two other factors be considered. First is the forecasted continued economic recession in the industrial states during the coming year, which will affect oil demand. The second issue is the entry of Kuwait—and probably Iraq—on the oil market, thus increasing the supply of this commodity. The combination of these factors causes us to be cautious in utilizing oil revenues in the budget for the coming year.

Another international economic development that can be considered is the extensive trend in the economic balance [ta'dil] of various countries, especially in the Third World and in neighboring countries. This, along with the European union and the industrial countries becoming unipolar under the influence of America, renders the move toward strengthening the [words indistinct] of the state economy unavoidable.

11. [number as heard] On one hand, the human experiences of the past few decades have served to indicate the failure of the (?average) economies, while on the other, one can see that those countries which have taken serious intiatives in terms of expanding private sector activities have achieved undeniable success to the extent that those countries which still deem themselves socialists, too, have noiselessly embarked on adopting lengthy policies toward acheiving economic equilibrium, such as fixing a single rate of foreign exchange, rationalizing prices, turning their attention to the supply and demand mechanism instead of administrative intervention and government red-tape, as well as to economic measures aimed at expanding the private sector and stimulating investement at home while attracting foreign investment. Along with all this, observing social justice and supporting the vulnerable and deprived strata of the country—which is placed highly by Islam, the revolution, the guidelines of the departed imam, and the wishes of our ummah—plays a serious role in terms of the budget's compilation, figures, and policies—a policy which will be clearly manifest once I read the figures to you.

12. The budget for 1371 [March 1992-March 1993] has been drawn up, bearing in mind the country's internal economic developments and those of the world which have already been mentioned. It will be presented to the

honorable Majles today. However, before expounding the details of the budget, I deem it necessary to point out the government policies for the year 1371 and the prospect which could be observed by the honorable Majles while debating and ratifying the budget:

a. On establishing a balance on prices—whether commodities, services, human or capital resources—as one of the main policies stipulated in the government's plan aimed at popular participation in economic issues, extensive activities were carried out last year. It is appropriate to continue that trend until the ultimate optimal limit is achieved. Government effort next year will focus on providing required facilties toward increasing the nonoil exports, diversifying, and achieving average stability in terms of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

b. The fact that there is an inflation potential inside the country warrants paying more attention to and initiating efforts toward restricting government expenditure, particularly restricting the budget deficit to the level predicted in the plan. The Majles will undoubtedly pay attention to that, and the honorable gentlemen will note that in the final figures. Furthermore, paying attention to incomes earned at home and pushing some of the government apparatuses toward self-sufficiency is essential. The honorable Majles' cooperation in the stages of budget examination is of the utmost significance.

c. The government paid special attention to the society's vulnerable strata—within the framework of the present budget, too—in particular in terms of subsidy related expenditures. Despite the heavy burden it places on the government budget—and it takes a notable share in the 1371 budget—the subsidy related expenditures in the 1371 budget have increased notably compared to the previous year, even though we took the utmost care in all areas to reduce or limit it to the inflation level, in the current expenditures. In this case, we were forced to endure this problem for the sake of the vulnerable strata.

d. Another point concerns the regulation on the system for coordinating payments and ways of implementing it. It is one of the important issues pursued by both the Majles and the government. Next year's projections include 850 billion rials toward regulating civil servant incomes. The complete implementation of the said regulation must be accompanied by a fundamental regulation of the government sector establishments. If we want to improve the civil servant's lifestyle, we must also work toward structuring the government establishments, otherwise filling that ocean is no easy task, in view of the limited budget available.

We now inform the honorable deputies of the general framework of the figures in the 1371 budget. The main aim in compiling the government's general budget for next year is to maintain the borrowing figure specified in the first plan. In drawing up the budget, we fixed a ceiling above which there will be no borrowing. Thus, we must answer to the establishments' expectations within this very framework—not an easy task in view of the existing conditions, but one which we have sorted out—praise be to God—even though it is up to the Majles to finalize it.

This is why the extent of the government's borrowing from the banking system has been set in line with the figure in the plan, namely 633 billion rials. While showing a reduction of 347 billion rials in comparison with the figure approved in 1370, its relation to the government's total budget—and this is the important indicator, the relation between the budget deficit and the total budget—will be reduced from 11.2 percent in the current year to 6 percent in 1371. This is a very good proportion; we will have a deficit of 6 percent in relation to the total budget. That will be maintained, God willing.

The total budget figure for 1371 is 27.8 trillion rials, a 38.6 percent increase compared to the budget approved in 1370. A large part of this growth rate relates to the budget of state-owned companies, banks, and other things not related to the general budget, (?as you will see) in the figures below.

The equivalent of 11.3 trillion rials of the total budget is devoted to the general government budget, an increase of about 21.5 percent compared to the current year. Of course, part of it relates to special revenues which are also allocated for special uses, as we will see in the figures below. That is the figure for the general budget. The figure for the general budget includes 986.2 billion rials allocated from special revenues, so this 900 must be subtracted from that 11.

The budget for stated-owned companies, nonprofit organizations affiliated to the government and banks shows an increase of 50 percent. With an increase of 50 over this year, it has been set at 18 trillion rials. Of this, 16 trillion rials involves state-owned companies; 242 billion rials involves nonprofit organizations affiliated with the government; and 1.8 trillion rials involves banks.

Now, for the government's general budget:

Revenues—The 1371 budget bill revenues total 9.5 trillion rials, an increase of over 38.4 percent compared to the prediction of performance during 1370. Of the above figure, 35.8 percent involves tax revenue—please, pay attention to these indicators; 52.9 percent involves oil and gas revenue—the reason the oil figure seems high this year is because (?we decided to put the sale of foreign currency on the oil account) because the foreign currency which we receive through oil has to do with oil, after all; we put it down as other revenues, but it is, in fact, oil which turns into rials in this way; therefore, we put our entire foreign currency sales down to oil, so the oil revenue has increased—and 11.3 percent involves other revenues. In the framework of the 1371 budget bill revenues, the revenue resulting from the sale of foreign currency to implementational organizations for special uses has been listed under oil and gas revenues in view of its actual nature arising from the export of oil.

The fundamental order in the revenue section is based on tax revenue. The said revenue, in the framework of the aims set in the first plan, has been estimated at 34.3 trillion rials, an increase of more than 28.8 percent compared to the predicted performance for the current year. The increase in tax revenues in 1371 can be attributed mainly to the increase in income tax and in taxes on imports. The said increases, for their part, will be achieved as a result of the improvement of the country's economy and of the expansion of productive and commercial activities.

If the said revenues are achieved, the relation between tax revenue and gross domestic production, which was showing a downward trend until the year 1367, will increase from 4.3 percent in 1368 to 6.8 percent in 1371. This is a relatively good figure; of course, it should improve a lot more in the future.

While stressing the maximum exploitation of oil production and export capacities, developments in the international market have also been considered in assessing oil revenue. As for other government revenues, which arise mainly from government production and service activities, an increase of 75.1 percent is foreseen, which, in view of mechanisms and intentions foreseen in the framework of the first plan and the clauses of next year's budget, is expected.

Expenditures—Current expenditures in the 1371 budget bill aimed at realizing the objectives envisaged in the first plan total 7 trillion rials, a 21 percent increase compared to the amount envisaged for the 1370 budget. Implementation of the regulation for coordinating payments played a major role in increasing that figure. Following the principle targettings of the current expenditure in the previous year, the social sectors—I beg you to pay attention to this point in future debates—comprising general, technical, vocational and higher education, health and treatment, and social welfare will also have a principle share of the current expenditure next year. These were allocated a large share in this year's budget. The current expenditures of the aforementioned sectors in 1371 have been predicted to be 3.1 trillion rials—44.08 percent of the entire current expenditures—a 19 percent increase compared to 1370. In implementing Clause 22 of the first plan's regulation and the regulation regarding the system of coordinating payments within the government's financial limits next year, the sum of 350 billion rials from the current credits fund, in addition to the credits stipulated in the 1370 budget, has been earmarked for the purpose of civil servants' wage rise. Without considering the main points listed above, the current expenditure next year in comparison with that envisaged in the year 1370 will be increased by six percent, a reasonable increase in light of the existing inflation. We have tried to be cost effective in terms of the current expenditures. The ratio of the current expenditures to the entire government expenditures—which was continually increasing over the past years due to the stagnancy of development and manufacturing activities in the country—will amount to 68 percent in 1371, a relative improvement compared to similar figures in 1369, which were 70.09 percent, and in 1370, which were 72 percent. We have come from 72 percent to 68 percent, a figure which must be reduced even further in the coming years.

Development costs—Development credits in 1371 have been estimated at 3.4 trillion rials, an increase of 46.8 percent compared to 1370. When our development costs increase 46 percent, nearly 47 percent [words indistinct] development credits at the fixed rate, which was constantly reducing during the past few years due to the imposed war and the recession in productive activities, has had an ascending trend from 1367.

As for the distribution of government development credits in 1371, the main inclination is to provide the required investment resources to create physical training and health capacities; expand water and earth resources; and (?mobilize) infrastructure, especially for communication needs. These are our priorities. With the country's limited transportation system in mind, one of next year's main priorities is to equip ports and increase rail transport capacity. Considering these priorities, the development credits of the education and training sectors have increased by the following percentages compared with the year 1370: public education, 32.4 percent; technical and professional training, 9.7 percent; health and treatment, 36.1 percent; agriculture, 9.4 percent; water resources, 51 percent; and transportation, 20.4 percent. These clarify the priorities of next year's budget. The portion of the development credits of the said sectors as part of the total development credit was 28 percent in 1370. This figure will reach 32 percent in 1371, an increase of 4 percent.

Next year's provincial development budget is estimated at 711 billion rials, an increase of around 32 percent compared to 1370. The inclinations for distributing the above credit are: the elimination of education, health, and treatment needs and infrastructural affairs, such as road building and providing electricity and drinking water to rural areas. Apart form the above credits, special credits have been allocated for implementing development projects in the provinces in the various articles of the budget bill. This considerably increases the provincial credit. At total of 3,356 projects will be implemented in various provinces of the country with these credits, compared to 2,316 projects in 1370. These projects mainly relate to general infrastructure and social needs.

The proposed budget notes that around 37 projects that were carried out at the national level will be passed to the provincial level in 1371 to be implemented provincially. The credit for these projects totals 35.2 billion rials, mainly concerning rural development and construction, transportation, housing, and agriculture.

Another important feature of next year's development credit budget is the continuing consideration given to deprived and less developed regions. To realize the objectives set in Article 5 of the First Expansion Program Law, the inclination for realizing this aim was noted in the distribution of provincial development credit of 1371. The country's deprived areas will receive a greater share of the credit to the extent that, apart from the development credit allocated from within provincial projects to reduce the lack of regional balance and compensation for deprivation of deprived areas, in the proposed budget bill of 1371 a total of 158 billion rials of special credit has been allocated to eliminate deprivation and to compensate for the existing differences between such areas and other regions of the country [words indistinct] another important point of the 1371 budget bill is the prediction of required credit to accelerate and complete the reconstruction of quake-hit regions of Gilan and Zanjan Provinces. Through the use of the said credits—God willing—the reconstruction of the above provinces will be completed in 1371.

As for reconstructing regions hit by war, with the provision of required conditions for the return of war refugee compatriots to [word indistinct] in 1371 and with the credits allocated in the budget bill, the reconstruction of residential and trading units of towns and cities hit by war will proceed with special priority. Based on research at hand and the envisaged investments, it is forecast that around 500,000 war refugee compatriots will return to their homes in 1371.

The budget for government affiliated companies, government, and banks affiliated profit making institutions—Regarding government affiliated companies, the government has adopted two simultaneous complementary policies within the past two years: first, efforts were made to transfer government and nationalized companies to the people; second, policies were adopted to improve the management and the sufficiency of those government companies that for certain reasons, such as the rules and regulations imposed by the Constitution or the conditions of the country's economic situation, cannot be transferred. On the transfer of companies to the people, after necessary assessments were made, the transfer of 300 companies began. We hope to be able to boost the cooperation of that hard working strata in the country's production affairs through priority given to the transfer of 33 percent of the total shares of government affiliated and nationalized companies to those companies' employees. Also, with the stock exchange becoming more active, the society's existing financial resources would be mobilized in that direction and would be spent on such things as repaying of those companies' previous debts, developing deprived areas, and providing the government with funds to compensate for government budget deficit.

On the issue of companies which cannot be transferred to the nongovernment sector, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government would pursue the improvement of their management efficiency and the correction of their financial and operational structure through implementation of Clause 32 of the Planning Law [Qanun-e Barnameh] of the first development plan. Sources for government affiliated companies, banks, and profit making institutions' expenditure during the year 1371 is estimated at 18 trillion rials or 61 percent of the country's total budget. That figure also shows a 50 percent increase compared to the same figure for the current year's budget, which I mentioned earlier. Government affiliated companies in 1371 would invest 4.3 trillion rials from their internal sources, banking facilities, and other areas within the aims of the first plan, a 52 percent increase compared to the same figures for 1370. Government affiliated companies would invest around 4.2 trillion in development projects, while the government would invest 3.3 trillion—7.5 trillion rials invested in development projects during the next year. We usually pay attention only to government budget figures. Figures for companies are usually big figures which would affect support needs, such as roads, transportation, equipment, and so on.

Education and training—Tax and share profits paid by government affiliated companies during 1371 have been estimated—in this order: tax and profits—at 484.1 and 44.8 billion rials. They show an estimated increase of 30.4 percent and 12 percent compared to similar figures for the previous year.

It is foreseen that the performance of the country's state-owned companies and banks will continue to improve next year in the wake of the policies adopted by the government. Last year's lassitude in some companies is being brought under control, and the companies will generate profit next year. In this second section, attention will be given to some points in the government's implementational program in 1371, and reference will be made to the special features and consequences of the budget bill in various sectors.

Education and training: 19 percent of the country's total budget in 1371 will be devoted to the education and training sector. This is really a large figure, and deputies must think about this fact in connection with the amendment of the makeup of the country's future budget. We must also add higher education, professional training, and so on to see what sort of figure it is. Then military training budgets must also be borne in mind. The great proportion of the country's budget spent in this way will then be seen. Of course, there are sometimes ways in which the money does not have to come from state funds but can come from elsewhere in a correct manner.

A total of 19 percent of the country's 1371 budget is devoted to the education and training sector, a notable increase compared to the 1356 figures—before the revolution—which stood at 12.7 percent. The increase demonstrates the government's interest in education and training. Of course, we were not complacent. When we debated the issue, we really realized that if education and training was to receive its fill, a lot more had to be given, but the ceiling on borrowing has tied our hands.

The student population in 1370 totals about 15.7 million. This exceeds the projected aims of the plan by six percent. In light of the increasing trend in the number of students and of budget limitations, sole reliance on general state funds will create problems in the future. In this regard, new resources, popular resources, and suitable means must be sought. This would involve the people's serious participation in establishing and running schools, the attraction of popular participation in assisting districts, school self-sufficiency by means of the attraction of popular assistance, and the establishment of semistate and nonstate schools in affluent districts.

Higher education—This has been one of the high growth areas because there has been a great deal of expansion in universities and also because of the priority given to the establishment of (?higher learning stages) in the country. The budget for this sector shows about a 39 percent increase in the year 1371 over 1370. It shows the greatest overall increase. The reason is the importance and sensitive nature of higher education and research. There are some figures here about the annual expenditure for students and so on which I will not go over so as to be brief. The gentlemen will see the figures later.

In any case, we are far from a suitable (?system) in this sector. Bridging the gap has not been possible solely on the basis of government resources. This is again the case for higher education. It is necessary to call on latent popular capabilities and capacities for assistance. In addition to suitable administrative (?tactics), steps must also be taken to expand higher education through nonstate means, to use existing resources better. Let me just say that the administrative boards of universities which, in accordance with the law, had to prepare their own budgets this year for presentation to the government, recommended a 270 percent growth. They insisted (?on this), saying we have no alternative but this figure. We then put great pressure on the minister to get him to feel satisfied with this figure, and he was not satisifed in the end that we should, for the moment, draw up the budget on the basis of 39 percent growth.

If we really want our universities to improve, we definitely must exploit popular assistance more, those who are prepared to spend to educate their children.

Health and medical treatment—This sector represented about 4.9 percent of the total budget in 1356. I mention the prerevolution figure to show the revolution's interest in this sector. The figure will increase to 7.1 percent next year.

The budget allocated to health and treatment has increased over 21 percent in relation to this year's credits. The number of hospital beds will increase to around 86,900 in 1371, with 80 percent of this belonging to the state sector. More attention is being paid to this budget sector in 1371. As for treatment services, efforts concentrate on the needy strata, and there are efforts to attract the people's participation in expanding the country's treatment networks and the administration of state run hospitals.

Welfare—The number of people under care totalled 4 million in 1370; this number will rise to 4.2 million in 1371. Over 700 billion rials has been set aside for the care of the needy, in line with the balanced economic policies of the 1371 budget.

Agriculture—Continuing the development credits to this sector, around 239.4 billion rials has been allocated to agriculture in 1371, 9.4 percent higher than the current year. Development activities within the credit allocated above will be as follows:

Water and soil activities: Raising the efficiency of the transfer of traditional waterways; consolidating and constructing modern and traditional farms; unifying the watering system to cover 545,000 hectares, with around 8,550 km of canals being covered.

Forestation and grazing ground activities: Forestation, forestry, revival of grazing grounds, and sand dune fixation to cover 11.9 million hectares; around 3.1 million cubic metres of wood will be produced; wood production will increase by 400,000 cubic metres over the current year's production level. To attract the participation of the private sector and to increase forestry activities, the policy of transferring forests to the private sector, which seriously started in 1370, will continue in 1371.

Cattle and poultry: With the creation of facilities and suitable conditions for the nonstate sector, the production of meat will reach 1,000 and 62,000 tons [figures as heard], egg production will reach 392,000 tons, and milk production will reach 4.1 million tons. Meat imports will be reduced by 20,000 tons next year.

Agricultural activities: A total of 33.9 million tons of produce will be harvested. The production of the majority of goods show notable increases next year. The imposition of the successful guaranteed pricing policy for essential goods, so long as the producer receives tangible profits, will continue next year. Therefore, it is expected that next year we will witness an increase in the production of essential produce.

Water resources: One of the most serious problems faced by our system, our country, is the water control. Greater attention must be paid to this issue. We have already paid a lot of attention, but if the Majles pays even more attention, we will be even more satisfied. Considering the capacities created over the past years and the lack of complete use of those capacities within the framework of predetermined objectives, for 1371 it is predicted that around 500 million metres [as heard] of water resources that were previously provided through creating major and minor water networks will be commissioned. Main networks as large as 11,750 hectares and secondary networks as large as 163,950 hectares will be established for that purpose. Around 27 million cubic meters of new water resources would be commissioned to supply and transfer drinking water and water used by industries in 1371.

Industries and mines—The Isfahan aromatic project would reach an estimated annual production capacity of 161,000 tonnes of products in 1371 as follows—those products would have serious effects on their subsequent industries:

benzene—75,000 tonnes
toluene—20,000 tonnes
(artosilene)—22,000 tonnes
(parasilene)—44,000 tonnes.

With the completion of Isfahan's Mobarake steel complex project and the second phase of the Ahvaz steel complex, as much as 2.4 million tonnes of various kinds of sheet steel and 1,000,000 tonnes of steel would be added to the existing production capacity, strongly increasing gross product figures. The Kavian rolling mill, with the annual production capacity of 800,000 tonnes of steel sheets, would have been commissioned in 1371. Of course, it will be commissioned today, and—God willing—it will reach its production capacity by next year.

Copper production levels will reach 140,000 tonnes, and Zanjan's lead factories will begin operating. With the completion of various projects for equipping and preparing mines, new capacities will be added to the existing capacities listed below:

gold—517 kgs
(?concentrated) lead—7,000 tonnes
manganese stone—35,000 tonnes
coal—400,000 tonnes per year
concentrated iron ore—2.7 million tonnes per year.

The Gol-e Gohar iron ore mines are expected to become operational in Shahrivar [beginning 23 August 1992]—that is to say, seven months earlier than the stipulated date. The Majles must definitely note that these iron ore mines are going into operation and that our steel-producing capacity will be at a high level starting next year. It is a self-sufficient industry, more or less. We have all the requirements in the country, and it is something which is of (?infrastructure) importance.

Commerce—The amount of (?visible) subsidies foreseen for 1371 totals 1,000,000,000,000 rials, which will be used for consumer-support programs, especially for low income groups, to reduce household expenditure. Of the said sum, an insignificant amount comes from the government's general budget and the rest from the balance of receipts of the consumer protection organization.

To expand nonoil exports, achieve the expansion foreseen in the first plan, and obtain the foreign exchange revenue foreseen in the plan, laws and regulations for encouragement and guidance have been drawn up, and the payment of foreign currency working funds to exporters has been stipulated in next year's budget. In addition, encouraging producers to produce competitive goods, establishing import/export facilities in this regard, and adopting policies to attract the cooperation of exporters are among next year's programs for this sector.

Development funds for the trade (?sector) have been set at 32.7 billion rials for 1371. This involves the construction of warehouses and silos for basic goods. The storage problem was a great nuisance again this year. Powerful mechanisms must definitely be used so that good development takes place in building warehouses. You can see for yourselves what the situation is like in the provinces. Part of this fund will be used on a priority basis to complete the 100,000 tonnes silo in Kerman and the 100,000 tonnes silo in Hamadan. In addition, with the Zahedan silo going into use in 1371, a new capacity of 210,000 tonnes will be added to wheat storage capacity. Of course, even this is not enough. In our circumstances, we must definitely increase our storage capacity.

Oil and gas—Let me say the following to you gentlemen on increased crude oil production capacity: The issue of increasing oil capacity will certainly be raised in Majles discussions. Please note, gentlemen, that it is not a question of exporting because, as far as exports are concerned, we must act within the limitation set by OPEC. We will be increasing our production capacity. Whenever the issue of increasing oil is mentioned, this point should be borne in mind so that there will be no negative international impact. The gentlemen should not think that the figure relates to exports.

Production capacity is there; if it becomes necessary in certain conditions, it will be exported, otherwise we will act in accordance with our quota.

Increasing crude oil production capacity by 558,000 barrels per day [bpd] in 1371 is part of the aim set in the first plan toward achieving a production capacity of 4.5 million bpd of crude oil by the end of 1372. The gentlemen know that our production capacity was showing a downward trend when we began, that we were barely able to produce 2.5 million bpd with great effort and with losses, and it was decreasing daily. There has been good progress. It should reach 4.5 million bpd in 1372. It is a very expensive and difficult task.

Part of the second phase of the Tangan refinery, with a capacity of 28 million cubic metres of gas per day, will be commissioned in 1371. This can fulfill the state requirements and replace a tremendous amount of oil products which are imported every year from abroad and eventually will bring with it the tendency toward improved consumption of energy and the saving of foreign currency. The following actions to commission gas resources will be taken in 1371: —laying 8,000 km of gas pipeline —supplying customers with a capacity of 300,000 [units not identified] in gas, which, of course, with the credit that we have envisaged—$100 million for the pipeline - and there is a certain amount of backlog which right now openly awaits a huge amount of pipes and valves—which if the Majles deputies, in its debates in the planning commission, consider a larger amount, we have no objection, but we believe that the amount written is enough. —laying 4,000 km of gas networks, which, to be fair, is one of the better tasks of the program. I know that the deputies are more sensitive about this than we, and in some instances they used to even lose their tempers. This is one of the most important tasks of the state, so that if we manage to—as the gentlemen said in the first program—bring it to the desired objective, there will be a good savings, and it will bring about the comfort of the people, as well. It has a high foreign currency saving potential.

Electricity—With the use of the 2,617 megawatts of new capacity, the total installed power station capacity in 1371 will reach 17,098 megawatts, which will include two 250 megawatt units in the Shahid Reza'i power station; Ramin power station, with the capacity of 315 megawatts; Qom power station, with the capacity of 400 megawatts; (?Montazar-al Qa'em) power station, with the capacity of 400 megawatts; Qarb power station, with the capacity of 250 megawatts; and Gilan power station, with the capacity of 468 megawatts. In addition, construction on a new power station with the capacity of 13,000 megawatts will begin next year—God willing. By the plan's completion, we will no longer suffer from power failures, even though it has been predicted that we will have some power failures. The government attempts to prevent further power failures by the end of the plan. It has been predicted that the electrical energy produced by the Energy Ministry's electricity institutions will reach the rate of 67.4 billion kilowatt hours in 1371, a 12.03 percent increase over the current year. With the growth of energy production, next year, in addition to meeting the new industrial needs and demands resulting from population growth, efforts will be made to decrease the previous shortages. As such, the number of villages enjoying electricity supply will be increased by 1,200 in the year 1371.

Housing and urban developmemt—To encourage construction of further residential units, policies were adopted in the recent years which will continue in the year 1371, for instance selling bulk housing in installments, prioritizing the distribution of building material for units occupying smaller surface areas, and establishing a competitive rate of credit for constructing residential units with a surface area ceiling of 75 meters in Tehran and other big cities and of 100 meters in the remaining cities. That does not mean that we will not aid others but that the aforementioned will be given priority by the government—in Tehran, 75 meters; in the other cities, 100 meters; the rest will be assisted and encouraged accordingly, but the government emphasis will be on the former.

Provision of greater facilities within the framework of Article 67 of the Urban Land Law, to build houses at a massive scale. [sentence as heard] State ownership of urban land has grown remarkably in the past two years, and it is predicted that about 180 million square metres of urban land would come under government ownership in 1371. As a result, the urban land allocated in 1371 will reach 105,000 plots. This figure shows a considerable increase compared with the figure envisaged in the first plan.

Urban development activities will be as follows: —continuing work on preparing 17 city guides, city maps, and 75 comprehensive city projects —continuing work on building 400 km of sewage network —and constructing four sewage treatment plants is part of the government's extensive measures to design and build sewage systems in cities, which on the basis of the ratified law should be built by the people with government assistance.

Roads and transportation—About 11,990 km of main and secondary road will be under construction in 1371. About 432 km of main road and 287 km of secondary roads will be completed and added to the country's road network by year's end. The length of rural roads under construction in 1371 will be about 1,900 km of which, in accordance with the plan, about 300 km will be completed. About 7,800 km of roads will be resurfaced and improved in 1371. A total of 330 km of main and secondary road will be improved, and 700 km of road will be resurfaced with asphalt by year's end. The volume of cargo and passengers transported by the railways will be increased in 1371 to about 21 million tonnes of cargo and 9,000,000 passengers. At the same time, 400 km of the existing railway lines will be repaired, and 195km of the new railway networks, currently under construction, will be completed.

It is predicted that the country's port capacity will be fully utilized in 1371. The country's shipping fleet capacity will also be increased by 100,000 tonnes. As a result, the share of the country's fleet in transporting the imported consignments will increase to 60 percent.

In conclusion, it is appropriate for me to thank the executive departments for their valuable efforts over the past several months in preparing the 1371 budget bill. I am certain that careful consideration by the esteemed Majles, particularly the budget and planning commission, during the investigation of the submitted budget bill will play a decisive role in promoting its quality. Compiling the 1371 budget within the framework of the objectives and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan is undoubtedly a great success for the government and the noble Majles. I must thank you for your cooperation. Usually, there is no Majles session on Saturdays, but the deputies have kindly come because of our programs. I am grateful to you all for coming and listening so patiently and carefully to my speech. May God grant success to us all so we can continue along our path in accordance with the objectives drawn by his holiness the imam of the ummah, with guidance of our honorable leader; may we all remain united, sincere, and friendly with each other; may we succeed in continuing along this path to take our revolution to the point desired by his holiness the imam and our ummah, while safeguarding our own thoughts and maintaining an attitude of accepting criticism and being able to criticize. May God's peace and mercy and blessings be upon you all.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Returns, Comments on ICO Summit

BK1312064891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif returned home last night after attending the sixth Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit held in Dakar. He described the summit as very successful.

On his way back home while speaking to reporters on board the plane, the prime minister said that all important issues raised by Pakistan have been included in the draft of the declaration. He referred to resolutions on Kashmir and Afghanistan passed at the conference and his proposal to establish an Islamic common market among the Islamic countries. He said all Islamic countries have supported Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue. The resolution supports Kashmiris' right of self-determination, strongly condemns the large-scale violation of human rights by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, and strongly urges the international community to take note of such large-scale violations.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan has also received unanimous support on the Afghanistan problem. He welcomed the ICO secretary general's decision to appoint a special representative on Afghanistan. The representative will vigorously push Pakistani and other concerned countries' efforts to achieve a political settlement to the Afghanistan problem.

As for his proposal to set up a common market of Islamic countries, he said that this sets a clear-cut direction for Islamic countries. He expressed confidence that the Islamic countries will review the proposal seriously for the collective benefit of all. The common market will include giving priority to mutual trade, reducing restrictions on import-export duties, strengthening economic policies, and establishing common projects among ICO member states.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that Pakistan will make efforts to give a practical shape to this proposal and to fulfill its aims. In reply to another question, he described his bilateral talks with other Muslim leaders as very successful. He welcomed the references to Kashmir in the speeches given by Indonesian President Suharto, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that Muslim leaders have reacted positively to his 6 June proposal on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia and said that this will help find a durable solution to the problem, which will guarantee peace in the region.

In reply to a question on his proposal for Pakistan and India to carry out a bilateral force reduction, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that he is ready to hold talks with India to set up a long-term plan to reduce defense spending. It is necessary, however, to resolve the Kashmir problem first before resolving the other problems so that each other's doubts can be removed. Both countries will therefore use their resources for the development and welfare of the people, for the eradication of poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment, and for increasing production which will reduce both countries' foreign debt burden.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif announced that Pakistan has decided to recognize Azerbaijan and that Pakistan will provide Azerbaijan, already an ICO member, with all possible political and economic help. He said before his departure for Dakar that an Azerbaijani delegation had called on him in Islamabad and had appealed for the recognition of Azerbaijan. The delegation was assured of Pakistan's help, keeping in mind the old fraternal and historical relations between the people of the two countries. In reply to a question, the prime minister said that there is no possibility of a negative reaction from the Soviet Union on Pakistan's recognition of Azerbaijan.

Rallies Protest Attack on Bhutto Friend

BK1312005091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1823 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 12 (AFP)—Major Pakistani cities Thursday witnessed a fifth day of demonstrations protesting the alleged attack on a friend of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

While rallies at Islamabad and north western Peshawar city remained peaceful, violent incidents were reported from the Punjab capital of Lahore and the southern port city of Karachi where Veena Hayat, 40, was allegedly assaulted on November 27.

Police fired in the air after tear gas shells failed to disperse stone throwing youths in Lahore.

The turnout in Lahore, where several thousand people took to the streets, was the first major rally since Veena's father, veteran politician Sardar Shukat Hayat disclosed here Saturday what he described as the horrific 12-hour "torture and molestation" of his daughter by five masked men.

Earlier protests in Karachi and Islamabad had been much smaller involving mainly women's organisations.

Police in Karachi briefly detained over a dozen people, mostly women, following a scuffle with a dispersing crowd of about 500 demonstrators. Reports said protesters burned effigies of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his son-in-law, Irfanullah Marwat, who is responsible for law and order in southern Sindh Province.

Some 1,000 people responding to an opposition front's call for a nationwide protest Thursday staged a demonstration in Peshawar. The slogan chanting crowd dispersed peacefully after burning effigies of government leaders.

The incident has assumed political dimensions with opposition led by Bhutto's Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) capitalising on the widespread resentment to press its demands for a change of government in Sindh.

The Veena affair has been denounced by ruling party leaders, while a tribunal set up to probe the incident began its proceedings in Karachi on Thursday.

Headed by a high court judge, the tribunal has summoned the two Hayats to appear next Thursday to record their statements. Sardar Shukat Hayat, 76, however, has rejected the tribunal and is insisting on the removal of the Sindh government.

Critising alleged inaction by the president, he demanded an investigation by a three-member committee which should include Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Army chief General Asif Nawaz and former Premier Bhutto.